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## SEASON'S GREETINGS!



*Back row, left to right:* Rose-Marie Finch, Janet Ayles, Ryan Goff, Jen Anderson, Karen Van der Woerd, Dennis Sheppard, Sheri Leeson, Katherine Wiebe, Tora Volkers, Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe, Julia Dion, Rae Weniger, and Elaine Chaisson. *Seated, left to right:* Wendy Hodges, Meera Mittra, Colleen Doerksen, Danielle Bendtsen, Alrene Dempster, Linda Duplessis with Kloe, and Janet Schultz.

*Not pictured:* Carol Downing, Rose Crerar, and Cliff Lesh.

## 25 for 25 Contest Winners Announced

Residents of the Peace Country have spoken, selecting the **Harry Potter** series as the indisputable winner of Peace Library System's "25 for 25: The Best Books of Our Time" contest.

J. K. Rowling's magical series chronicling Harry Potter's struggle to overcome evil personified by Lord Voldemort, received 30% of the total votes, followed by Robert Munsch's modern classic **Love You Forever** and recently published **Water for Elephants** by Sara Gruen. The **Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown and Khaled Hosseini's **The Kite Runner** round out the top five.

Robert Munsch was the only Canadian author to appear twice in the top 25, with **50 Below Zero** also appearing on the list at eleventh place. Peace Country author Larry Loyie's children's book, **As Long as the Rivers Flow**, edged out the internationally popular *Twilight* series for sixteenth place.

The complete list of winning titles is provided on page 14 of this newsletter. To learn more about the contest, please visit [www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/25-for-25-Contest](http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/25-for-25-Contest).

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Above: Tracy Skoworodko of Spirit River Municipal Library presents a Kobo Touch to Kimberlee Laliberte. By voting for her favourite books, Kimberlee was entered into a draw to win the grand prize of a Kobo Touch or one of three \$50 gift certificates from Chapters/Coles/Indigo.

# From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System



We've had a very busy but productive fall at Peace Library System. We enjoyed some reminiscing at our 25th anniversary celebration and took a look into the future with R. David Lankes at our annual Rural Libraries Conference. We launched a contest to identify the 25 best books within the last 25 years, and unveiled a new mission statement and logo. This was all in addition to regular visits to libraries, numerous meetings, and other conference/events. Not to mention personal happenings, such as the birth of my new granddaughter, Kloe, on October 24. (Mom and baby are doing well!)

These are very busy times, but as Christmas approaches, I hope you will find time to stop and reflect on the good things in life – family, friends, pets, music, good food, good books, and our homes and communities. We have so much to be thankful for!

## Staff Update

Peace Library System welcomed back **Ryan Goff** as Network Analyst in September. We have also welcomed back **Sheri Leeson**, initially as a temporary cataloguer for the Slave Lake donations, and more recently as a regular cataloguer. **Karen Van der Woerd** is moving from Cataloguing back into Acquisitions due to the retirement of **Rose Crerar**, our Order Clerk. Rose has been a key person in the Acquisitions Department over the last eight years. At the end of December we will also be saying goodbye to **Meera Mittra**, our Cataloguing Supervisor, who is retiring after 23 years with the System. Meera has made a huge contribution to the cataloguing department and will be greatly missed. We wish Meera and Rose well as they travel and spend more time with their families.

## 25th Anniversary Event

From all accounts, the silver anniversary celebration on September 21st went very well. We estimate that approximately 125 people attended the event, which featured presentations by the Hon. Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Sharon Siga, former Director of Peace

Library System (PLS). Several people reminisced about the System's beginnings or shared their appreciation for PLS staff and services. A new logo and mission statement were announced and the **25 Best Books of Our Time** contest was launched. Other aspects of the celebration include a beautiful scrapbook showcasing member public libraries, and special thank-you cards sent to all schools, school divisions, library boards and municipalities.

## Borrow a Digital Media Creation Lab from APLEN

A new digital media creation lab is now available to Peace Library System and its member libraries. The lab features powerful laptops, short-throw projectors, ultra-light scanners and cameras with video and still photo capabilities. The short-throw projector requires very little distance between the projector and the screen and projects a very clear image, making it ideal for small spaces. The lab can be split up into four separate pods each containing five laptops, one projector, one scanner and one camera. Libraries can book one or more pods, depending on their needs and demand for the labs.

Think about the possibilities for library programming. Digitization projects using the scanner to scan letters and photos could benefit a community history project. Teens might like to create and edit videos or mix music. The labs also have an important role to play in staff training. Libraries can book the lab to train staff in preparation for offering a community program. The labs are also very useful for professional development events like regional conferences and staff training initiatives. To request the lab, contact Lauren at [lebruin@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](mailto:lebruin@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca) or at 780-414-0805 ext. 230. But don't delay; the lab is proving to be very popular. Lauren reports that it is already reserved until after Family Day!

## Did you know?

**Charles Dickens** began writing **A Christmas Carol** in October of 1843 and finished only six weeks later. It was published on December 17, 1843 to immediate critical acclaim!



## System News Bits



- **Janice Brassard** is the new Library Manager at **Tangent Community Library**. The library is expected to reopen for full circulation procedures in January 2012. Welcome, Janice!
- **Dixonville Community Library** celebrated their 1st anniversary on October 13, 2011 with an event that featured local author Carmel Ellis.
- **Danielle Bendtsen** had her baby girl, Kloe, on October 24. She weighed 10 lbs 6 oz and was 23 1/2 inches long.
- **Laurie Harrison**, Director of **Grande Prairie Public Library** and former PLS consultant, retired at the end of October. She and her husband have since moved to rural Saskatchewan where they hope to spend their days by the lake. A barbeque was held in her honour on September 23, and Laurie is pictured on the right, holding up the earrings that were presented to her on behalf of the staff at GPPL.



# Excellence in Library Service Award Winners

Four Peace area librarians were recognized for their outstanding work in school and public library service when they received the Excellence in Library Service awards for 2011. **Jocelyne Gervais** and **Joyce Doran** of **Bibliothèque Dentinger** in Falher won in the public library category, while **Kristina Pahl** of **Glenmary School** in Peace River, and **Judy Sahaydak** of Peace River School Division's **Instructional Materials Centre** were both declared winners in a tie for the school library category. The recipients were presented with their awards at Peace Library System's 2011 Rural Libraries Conference held on September 22 and 23 in Grande Prairie.



From left to right: Peace Library Board Chair, Veronica Bliska, Joyce Doran, & Jocelyne Gervais.

**Jocelyne Gervais** and **Joyce Doran** are well-known for their enthusiasm and positive attitude at the **Bibliothèque Dentinger/Falher Library** in Falher, AB. The two have job shared the position of Library Manager for the last several years, assuming the role after the sudden passing of Maureen Carter, who was Library Manager at the time. This meant that Jocelyne and Joyce came to the library at a very difficult point, with not only Maureen's sudden passing at year end, but also with questions about the future of the library and the Town of Falher having recently completed a possible dissolution study. However, Jocelyne and Joyce have met each challenge with energy and eagerness.

Jocelyne and Joyce have successfully taken on several prominent issues that the library has been faced with, always maintaining their trademark positivity and enthusiasm, and their hard work has paid off. After replacing the materials that had not been circulating with new materials that met specific community needs and desires, there has been a noticeable increase in library usage. Within the last year alone, library memberships have increased by 30 percent. The circulation of materials has also increased, and the usage of interlibrary loans has doubled. Both bilingual, Jocelyne and Joyce have also helped to renew the library's French collection and have increased its circulation. Additionally, this year the duo spearheaded the formation of a Friends of the Library Society to help secure future sources of funding for the library through the Alberta Gaming Commission and other fundraising venues. They have also increased the library's profile in the community through library programs, such as the summer reading program, bringing in guest speakers to highlight new businesses or points of interest in the community, and participating in French radio interviews.

"We are a better library for having them," **Jackie Hockey**, Bibliothèque Dentinger Library Board Chair who nominated Jocelyne and Joyce stated, adding, "I am a better Chair because of their support and wealth of experience and community contacts."



Kristina Pahl (right) receiving her award from Veronica Bliska (left).

**Kristina Pahl** was born and raised in Peace River, and began her career as a school librarian at **Glenmary School** in 2007. Described as being energetic, a true team player and always approachable, Kristina is respected for her hard work in creating a school library environment conducive to learning and her commitment to developing the library into a 21st century resource centre.

Since her arrival, Kristina has transformed the school's library from the old-fashioned austere library setting to a café-style environment that is warm and inviting. Students can now be found lounging on the leather sofas and reading, while others play chess, are involved in peer tutoring or are researching school assignments on the computers. Passionate about literacy and the 21st century learner, Kristina strives to give students the tools they need to become independent learners by assisting them with the development of computer skills. She shows them how to find library books on their own, and has pushed for electronic books for students to use. Above and beyond the call of duty, Kristina has helped teachers create audio versions of exams so that print disabled students can be better accommodated. She is also in the process of developing a website that will have contests for students, resource links, blogs, and curriculum resources online.

Robert Plowman and Barb Turcotte, Glenmary's Vice-Principal who nominated Kristina, conclude that she is a "...visionary regarding the most effective use of the library" and they assert that Kristina is "...an advocate for all students, but especially those who need extra support... [and] prepares students for life-long learning." This demonstrated dedication shows that Kristina Pahl is truly an example of excellence in school library service.

**Judy Sahaydak** has been a dedicated Resource Technician with Peace River School Division's **Instructional Materials Centre** (IMC) for the last nine years. Known for her upbeat attitude and her great sense of humour, Judy is a hard worker that can always find a way to add some fun into the day, whether it's doing a little jig at her desk or laughing with a colleague while assisting them with a task. Responsible for the day to day operations of the library, she also eagerly helps find existing resources and develops new ones to meet the needs of the division's teachers and information specialists.

Though she is quick to laugh, Judy is a strong independent worker that takes her job seriously, recognizing its importance in providing support to all of the schools in the division. Carol Fedoruk and Barb Mulholland, Curriculum Supervisors with the Peace River School Division, stated in Judy's nomination that "Judy's dedication, enthusiasm and efficiency are hallmarks of her service as a Resource Technician and as a model for district librarians. She always looks for ways to improve the IMC collection, and has a service-oriented attitude that makes her a pleasure to work with."

Judy is known for going above and beyond expectations and adding special little touches. For example, when the IMC put together film study kits for the high school English Language Arts curriculum, Judy added support materials in different media types and even included popcorn in the kits to surprise the students and add to their enjoyment of film studies.

Carol Fedoruk and Barb Mulholland conclude, "Enthusiasm, knowledge, positive attitude, dedication, organization and a great sense of humour are the traits that make Judy a very deserving member of this award. Peace River School Division is fortunate to have such a highly skilled individual working in the central library."



Judy Sahaydak (right) receiving her award from Veronica Bliska (left).





## News 'N' Notes

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

### How to contact us:

janderson@  
peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

Editor/Design:  
Jen Anderson

### Contributors in this issue:

Janet Ayles

Pam Chislett

Linda Chmilar

Carol Downing

Linda Duplessis

Ryan Goff

Joy Grant

Sue Farrell Holler

Natalie Keizer

Susan Moody

Victoria Potter

Michelle Rempel

Leslie Ann Sharkey

Susanne Tremblay

## Fall Author Tour Recap



Award winning young adult author **Nicole Luiken**, pictured left at **Dixonville**, returned to the Peace region this fall. Born in **Manning** and raised in **Hawk Hills**, the tour was an especially meaningful one for Nicole.

Over the course of the tour, she gave 11 readings, hosted by 11 public libraries throughout the northern region of Peace Library System, including: Eaglesham, Falher, McLennan, Nampa, Peace River, Dixonville, Rainbow Lake, High Level, Paddle Prairie, Keg River, and Manning. She spoke to over 450 eager participants.

To learn more about Nicole and her work, please visit [www.nicoleluiken.com](http://www.nicoleluiken.com).

Children's author **Joseph Simons**, pictured on the right at Elsworth Community Library, toured with Peace Library System for the first time this fall.

Visiting libraries in the Grande Prairie area and surrounding counties, Joseph gave 11 readings at 11 different libraries and schools, including: Beaverlodge, DeBolt, Grande Prairie, Hythe, Elsworth, Fox Creek, La Glace, Sexsmith, Valhalla, Valleyview and Wembley. Over 590 adults and students participated.

To learn more about Joseph and his work, please visit [www.josephsimons.ca](http://www.josephsimons.ca).



## Peace Library System's 25th Anniversary

Approximately 125 people turned out for Peace Library System's 25th Anniversary celebration on September 21st, which was held the evening before the start of the Rural Libraries Conference.

Peace Library System Director, **Linda Duplessis**, was the master of ceremonies for the evening, which began with Peace Library Board chair, **Veronica Bliska**, providing the opening remarks. **Sharon Siga**, former Director of Peace Library System, presented a heartwarming and often humorous look back at the history of Peace Library System. Guests were then invited to come up on stage and share their memories of Peace Library System. It was touching to see how many wished to speak. The reminiscences were followed by then Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Hector Goudreau, who spoke passionately about the importance of libraries.

The new Peace Library System logo and mission statement, **Connecting libraries, people and resources through teamwork, technology and training**, were unveiled.

The event concluded with an official cutting of the cake, and refreshments were provided while those in attendance mingled and reminisced.

Each guest received a mug which showcased the new PLS logo, a bookmark, mints and hot chocolate.



Former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hector Goudreau, presenting a plaque to Veronica Bliska (middle) and Linda Duplessis (right).

# An Introduction to Alberta Law Libraries (ALL)

By Victoria Potter, Library Coordinator, Alberta Law Libraries - Grande Prairie

Located in court houses and provincial buildings in 23 communities around the province, **Alberta Law Libraries (ALL)** connects Albertans with legal information. Alberta Law Libraries was formed in 2009 following the amalgamation of Alberta Court Libraries and the Alberta Law Society Libraries. Our libraries provide information and legal research services to the legal community (Judiciary, Justice and Attorney General Employees and Bar), self-represented litigants and the public.

Members of the public are able to access our libraries located at Queen's Bench and Provincial Court sitting points and select circuit points. Hours vary by community so please check the website at [www.lawlibrary.ab.ca](http://www.lawlibrary.ab.ca) for hours of operation prior to visiting.

## Alberta Law Libraries in the Peace Region

Grande Prairie	(780) 538-8928
High Level	(780) 926-3715
High Prairie	(780) 523-6600
Peace River	(780) 624-6418

For locations outside the Peace Library System region, including Edmonton, please review the ALL website.

Our team exists to help Albertans navigate the legal information landscape. Members of the public and self-represented litigants are guided to reliable sources of legal information without being given legal advice. All Albertans are encouraged to access our collections and to request legal research assistance from our team of skilled information professionals. Reference services may also be accessed online using our *Ask a Law Librarian* service or via e-mail at [all.edm@gov.ab.ca](mailto:all.edm@gov.ab.ca) (Edmonton) or [all.cal@gov.ab.ca](mailto:all.cal@gov.ab.ca) (Calgary).

The libraries are actively engaged in educating clients on the effective identification and use of reliable legal information sources, both print and electronic, as well as information on the Canadian justice system. When information needed cannot be supplied by the libraries, we will obtain it on behalf of the client or will refer them to the appropriate agency. Alberta Law Libraries works collaboratively with other organizations to provide legal information workshops and presentations to members of the public.

**Alberta Law Libraries is pleased to assist Peace Library System members by providing reliable information and materials. Customized group tours, library orientations, in-person seminars and one-on-one training sessions are offered.**

For additional information or to request assistance, please contact:  
**Victoria Potter**, Library Coordinator, Grande Prairie [victoria.potter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:victoria.potter@gov.ab.ca)  
**Susan Cosh**, Library Coordinator, Peace River [susan.cosh@gov.ab.ca](mailto:susan.cosh@gov.ab.ca)

## 2011 Rural Libraries Conference

Peace Library System once again hosted its annual Rural Libraries Conference in Grande Prairie on September 22 and 23. Over 150 trustees, school and public library staff from Alberta and northeastern British Columbia were in attendance.

Motivational speaker, **Nancy Kindler**, provided the opening keynote address, *Embracing the Future, Embracing Change*. She followed her keynote with a session on how to recognize and work well with different personality types. **Linda Shantz-Keresztes** returned to provide sessions for school Delegates. Friday morning author, **Maureen Fergus**, spoke about the challenges of getting teens to read from a writer's perspective and in the afternoon renowned library futurist, **R. David Lankes**, persevered through some audio problems and presented a virtual keynote address from Pittsburgh, PA.

Other sessions featured topics such as literacy, genealogy, eBooks, board and staff relations, collection analysis for school libraries, strategic planning, NoveList Plus, needs assessment, marketing to municipalities and more.

Peace Library System would like to thank the following sponsors for their support: **Alberta Library Trustees' Association, ACSI, Canadian Tire, Carr McLean, Crouse's Cleaners, CVS Midwest Tape, Dunvegan Gardens, Jean Finch, Forbes & Friends, Four Corners Tea Shop, Grande Prairie Children's Literature Roundtable, Micro Computers Plus, Northern Vision Centre, Snapshot Studio, Staples, Visions Electronics, Walmart, and Willsey Davis & Co. LLP.** Thank you, too, to all vendors who came and donated door prizes.



Above: Keynote speaker, Nancy Kindler, encouraging the audience to embrace change.



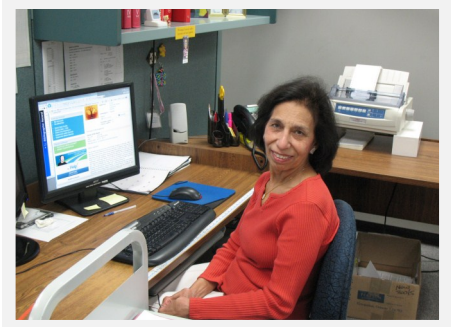
## Tech Services Tidbits

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



As the year draws to an end, we say goodbye to some of our long term employees. **Meera Mittra** will be retiring from Peace Library System. Meera has been a member of our staff since 1988. We will miss her expertise as the Cataloguing Supervisor, as she has knowledge one can only accumulate over time. Meera will be doing some travelling to India with her husband in the New Year. We wish Meera well and will truly miss her cheery good morning as we come to work each day.

**Rose Crerar** has also resigned her position as the Order Clerk. Rose has been with Peace Library System since 2003 and we will miss her smiling face and her dedication to her job. Rose will spend at least part of her retirement travelling with her husband.

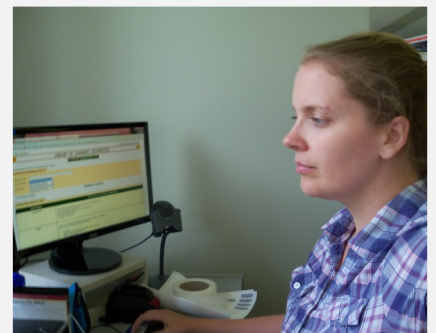


Above: Meera taking a quick break from cataloguing.



Above: Rose Crerar hard at work.

Below: Sheri Leeson cataloguing Slave Lake books.



On a more cheery note, **Sheri Leeson** has rejoined Peace Library System on a permanent basis in the Cataloguing Department. She will be working on both school and public library items. We thank Sheri for all the work she has done on cataloguing the donations for Slave Lake and are happy to have her back on staff permanently. **Karen Van der Woerd** will be taking over Rose's position on the Order desk and will assist with cataloguing as well. Karen has been with Peace Library System since November 2010.

On November 16, a three ton truck with a twenty-four foot box was rented to deliver approximately 14,000 catalogued items to the new location of the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library**. Headquarters staff helped load the truck and **Cliff Lesh** and his son, Adam, were soon on their way. **Dennis Sheppard, Elaine Chaisson, Sheri Leeson, Colleen Doerksen, Rae Weniger** and **Meera Mittra**, assisted by staff at **Yellowhead** and **Marigold Library Systems** have worked diligently to add these items to Polaris. Over ten thousand items still remain to be catalogued. Sheri Leeson returned to Grande Prairie in September and has been cataloguing out of Peace Library System headquarters since then.



Above: An always smiling Karen Van der Woerd.

The Courier Department is the proud owner of a 2012 Nissan NV High Roof 3500 S delivery van. A bigger vehicle was needed to carry the increased volume of material to the libraries.

As the year end approaches, year end procedures are once again in place. **All orders received at headquarters by December 1, 2011 will be ordered in the 2011 calendar year. All Vouchers received at headquarters by 4:00 p.m. on December 13th, will also be entered in the 2011 calendar year.** Any orders or vouchers received after these dates will be entered in January 2012. The Technical Services Department wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Left: Braving the cold to load the first of the 14,000 books destined for Slave Lake on November 16th.

Right: The Slave Lake cataloguers, clockwise from the top: Sheri Leeson, Dennis Sheppard, Elaine Chaisson, Meera Mittra, Rae Weniger and Colleen Doerksen.



# From the IT Department

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, Peace Library System



## A New Beginning

It's been almost three months since I moved to Grande Prairie from Nova Scotia, and it has been interesting to say the least. Instead of the ocean, I've seen mountains, oil equipment and farmland! This is my first professional library job since graduating from Dalhousie University with my MLIS in 2009. I know that there is much to learn, and I'm excited to learn from you all.

## Helpdesk

In the world of technology, it's inevitable that there will be questions and problems along the way as anyone who has ever worked with a computer is aware. When the unthinkable happens and something goes wrong, it's important to know who to reach out to and how to reach that person. Phoning is still the best option when something critical happens (if you can't log in to Polaris, you're having problems checking out materials for a patron, etc). For non-critical issues (report questions, smaller Polaris problems, or anything that does not impact immediate patron service) we have our Helpdesk. You can log a Helpdesk request at <http://help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/> or even send it in an email to [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca). Anything that gets sent to the Helpdesk goes to both me and Ryan, so no matter the problem, one of us will be able to help! If you're having problems submitting a Helpdesk request or have never done one and are a little unsure, definitely reach out to us and we'll help you through it.

## Telephony

I'm sure that most of you are aware that we have Telephony available as an option for patron notifications. Some of our libraries have turned this feature on and are using it successfully. A few libraries have contacted me to let me know that they would like Telephony enabled. For those of you who don't yet have Telephony enabled or haven't contacted me about it, let me know if your library is interested or even if you have questions. For those of you who weren't aware, Telephony doesn't just have to mean telephone calls for patrons, it can also mean text message notifications as well.



## Slave Lake Items

The fire in Slave Lake destroyed more than just Slave Lake's holdings. Unfortunately, there were a number of items belonging to other libraries that were destroyed either when the library burned or when individual patrons lost their homes. We are working to create a comprehensive list of destroyed items and will be notifying owning libraries shortly.

## Purging Inactive Patrons

With the start of a new year, it is time to clean things up a bit. There was a purge of inactive patrons last winter, which was limited to patron accounts expired more than two years having less than \$10.00 in account charges. A list of patron accounts to be purged will be generated in January with the purge to be scheduled at that time.

## Holiday Closures or Modified Hours

With the holiday season drawing closer, our thoughts turn to Christmas celebrations and time with loved ones. If your library hours are changing for the holidays or you are planning to be closed for a few days, please let us know so we can make the needed adjustments on our end.

## Thank You!

With any new job, there is a learning curve. When you add moving across the country to a new job, it can be downright scary. I want to thank everyone for welcoming me to my new role at PLS. Everyone has been very friendly and incredibly nice since I started here in September. You've all made settling in to Grande Prairie and PLS so much easier.

## Did you know?

"It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.



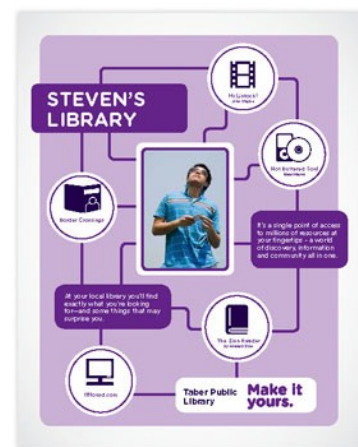
# APLEN's "Make it yours" Campaign

APLEN has launched the new **Make it yours** multi-year marketing campaign, designed to help Alberta libraries promote themselves in their communities using a wide range of customizable tools and resources.

Visit the **APLEN Make it yours Wiki** at <https://sites.google.com/a/thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/make-it-yours> for information, ideas and resources on how to promote your library, such as:

- Newspaper ads
- Radio spots
- Personalized poster app (<http://youralbertalibrary.com> - works best in Firefox)
- Customized posters
- Screen saver
- Slide show for display systems
- Tradeshow displays
- Online ads

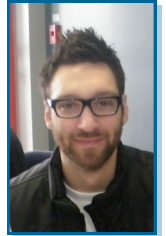
There is also a section on Frequently Asked Questions, and a blog with tips and suggestions to help you!



# The IT Landscape: Ongoing Projects and Future Endeavors

By Ryan Goff, Network Analyst, Peace Library System

A lot has changed in the PLS IT department in the last couple years. I'd like to take a few minutes to review some of the changes we have made, and some of the upcoming changes to expect that will further empower libraries to deliver the best service possible. Here are some of the changes that have been finished or are in progress:



- Upgrade all workstations, both staff and public, to Windows 7 where possible.
- Deploy printers automatically. Gone are the days of manually installing a printer on a workstation!
- Regulate all Windows and Antivirus updates. This means one less thing on your workstations to worry about, and will save our Internet link for more productive uses.
- Automatically deploy all software packages. Whether it's the newest version of Microsoft Office or the latest E-Reader software, we can push it out quickly without any interruptions.
- Move away from Deep Freeze. We are now able to control workstations through a tool known as "Group Policy," which will save libraries money on software licensing each year.
- Customize the user experience for each library. Things like having each public workstation's homepage set to the library website, apply specific desktop backgrounds, and other various components to maximize the user experience.

These changes should minimize staff involvement and deliver a smooth experience to all users. On top of managing the desktops, we are looking to make some additional changes to the network to increase both productivity and performance. These include:

- Bringing in a device for 2012 that will manage our network, in particular our Internet connection. It will allow us to prioritize which applications get priority and provide even more network visibility to identify network issues and security concerns.
- Increasing our Internet connection from 10 MB to 20 MB. Doubling the link, combined with managing it, will make a night and day difference.
- Tighten security both at PLS and all member libraries. Having additional layers of security will further protect both staff and public users.

While there is still a lot of work to be done, we have come a long way from the days of manual software installs and printer setups. Our ultimate goal is to provide the technology that will power the libraries to deliver the best possible service. Whether keeping long time patrons coming back, or drawing new ones in, we hope to help you in any and every way possible.

## Grande Prairie Public Library's Igeek Campaign

By Michelle Rempel, Communications Coordinator, Grande Prairie Public Library

The **Grande Prairie Public Library** celebrated Canadian Library Month with a campaign that captured the interest and the imagination of our community. Geek the Library was created by OCLC with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. GPPL is the first Canadian Library to use this campaign. To geek is used as a verb and means to be passionate about something. Whatever it is you geek, the Library supports you.

The campaign was introduced during the summer with a significant push planned for Library Month. All programs in October were branded with Igeek for the campaign. Digital billboards and bus benches were placed throughout Library Month and into November. Social media quickly became the medium of choice.



Library patrons connected with the campaign and were quick to tell us what they geek. Custom geek shirts proclaiming everything from biking to creative writing and opera were purchased. Staff members used their own geek shirts to spark conversations about the campaign.

Library Month wrapped up with Geek the Library Week which included a successful freeze mob and a fundraising drive for the Slave Lake Library Rebuilding Fund. All the fines collected that week, totalling \$1338.23, were donated.



Above: A scene from GPPL's freeze mob at the Prairie Mall on October 22.





## From the Information Desk

By Pam Chislett, Deputy Director, Grande Prairie Public Library

The end of another year is approaching. It has been quite a year for our Library. We had a lot of fun doing the Geek promotion. We completed an Organizational Review. Our Director of six years, **Laurie Harrison**, left and a new Director starts in mid-December. Our new young staff members have inspired us to dress up not once, not twice but three times this year! It has been fun seeing the creativity emerge...and it has been great for staff morale (plus we got great media coverage!).

For us, the end of 2011 also means the end of a three year budget cycle so there has been much number crunching going on in the Director's Office. With our Director leaving at the end of October, I felt I had to make a study of our budget in comparison to other library budgets. I wanted to check if our figures fell within the "standard" parameters of other libraries. What a fun adventure it was.

What kinds of standards was I looking for? Well, I was interested in the proportion of a budget that should compromise salaries; what percentage should be materials? I knew that there were some guidelines but I was not sure where to find them. My search started at the **Public Libraries Services Branch (PLSB)** website, [www.albertalibraries.ca](http://www.albertalibraries.ca). Under the statistics tab there are several places to search. The *2009 Public Libraries Statistics* document is the best place to start. Within the document, under the 2009 expenditures tab, is a list of all Alberta's libraries with the amounts plus the percentages for staffing and materials. Upon calling the very helpful **Kerry Anderson** at the PLSB, she indicated that the 2010 statistics are well along in preparation but the Branch is still waiting for a couple of libraries to report. Kerry was also able to clarify how the local appropriation figures were determined. Thanks for all your help, Kerry.

I now had a range of percentages to work with but I was still looking for the traditional standard that could be a general guideline. I wanted the figure that I had "learned" in library school a generation ago. Where are these figures cited? I kept up my search.



The next stop was another document on the Alberta Libraries website: [Standards and Best Practices for Public Libraries in Alberta](#). This document is quite new. Another resource cited on the website is: *Standards for Member Libraries within Alberta's Regional Library Systems* (2003). Both documents have a variety of standards, but I still did not find the type of figure I wanted. Of course, I kept getting sidetracked because there is a lot of information in both of these documents. **(Did you know that a guideline for determining the size of your non-print collection is between 0.25 and 0.5 items per capita?)**

So I carried on with my search. I know that what I was looking for was "dated" information. Budgets today are not developed with this type of thinking, but I am sometimes like a dog with a bone. I know our library budget is not developed this way but in the past few weeks someone asked about the percentage of budget devoted to professional development. I guess that started me thinking along the road of standards for materials and staffing.

I will share with you that I finally found the statistics I was looking for. **The Accidental Library Manager** by **Rachel Singer Gordon** (which is available in TRACpac) listed some guidelines. Other documents mentioned similar figures. The result of my search was as follows: Salaries between 60 and 70% of operational expenses; Materials between 10-20%.



I sometimes got sidetracked and I would like to mention two documents that caught my interest. The first one is the **Wisconsin Public Library Standards** document. It is available online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/pdf/standards.pdf>. Their *Quantitative Standards* made quite an impression on me. For example, their *Volumes held per Capita (Print)* standards are shown by population and then categorized by Basic, Moderate, Enhanced and Excellent. Grande Prairie is working towards 2.5 books/capita as outlined in Alberta's Standards document as being excellent. Wisconsin's per capita STARTS at 3.6 for basic for a population our size. For a library serving a population of 5,000 - 9,999, the basic is 6.0 print books per capita with a minimum collection of 8,000 volumes. I thought Grande Prairie had a reasonable periodical collection until I saw the standards for Wisconsin: 5.4 titles per capita. That equals 270 titles. We have in the 200 range. It was all very eye-opening.

I next stumbled upon the **Standards for Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries** (2001) document available at <https://www.library.ns.ca/files/standards.pdf>. In this document there was a chart labelled "Library Materials Expenditures as a Percent of Operating Budget." In this chart they had the libraries categorized as A, B or C levels ranging from 10, 12.5 and 15%. They have done a gradation of A, B, or C levels in all the normal library areas. The information at 2001 is a bit dated, but interesting just the same.

What I found interesting was the trend towards all of the standards documents to categorize by population and then by some level of service such as Base, Minimum, Growing, Established, Advanced. It definitely makes it easy to measure your library and to set goals.

What is the story to take away from my research? Well, the information is out there if you have the time to search. Alberta's documents are a good place to start, as is the Alberta Libraries website cited earlier in this column - and there are many more sources cited there. The big issue is finding the time to do the searching and then decide what to do with it. My end result is that our budget fits well within the guidelines both provincially and by other jurisdictions. And that makes me feel good!

I would like to thank the Peace Library System Staff for all that they do for us as a member library and send best holiday wishes to PLS and all of its member libraries. On to 2012!

### Did you know?

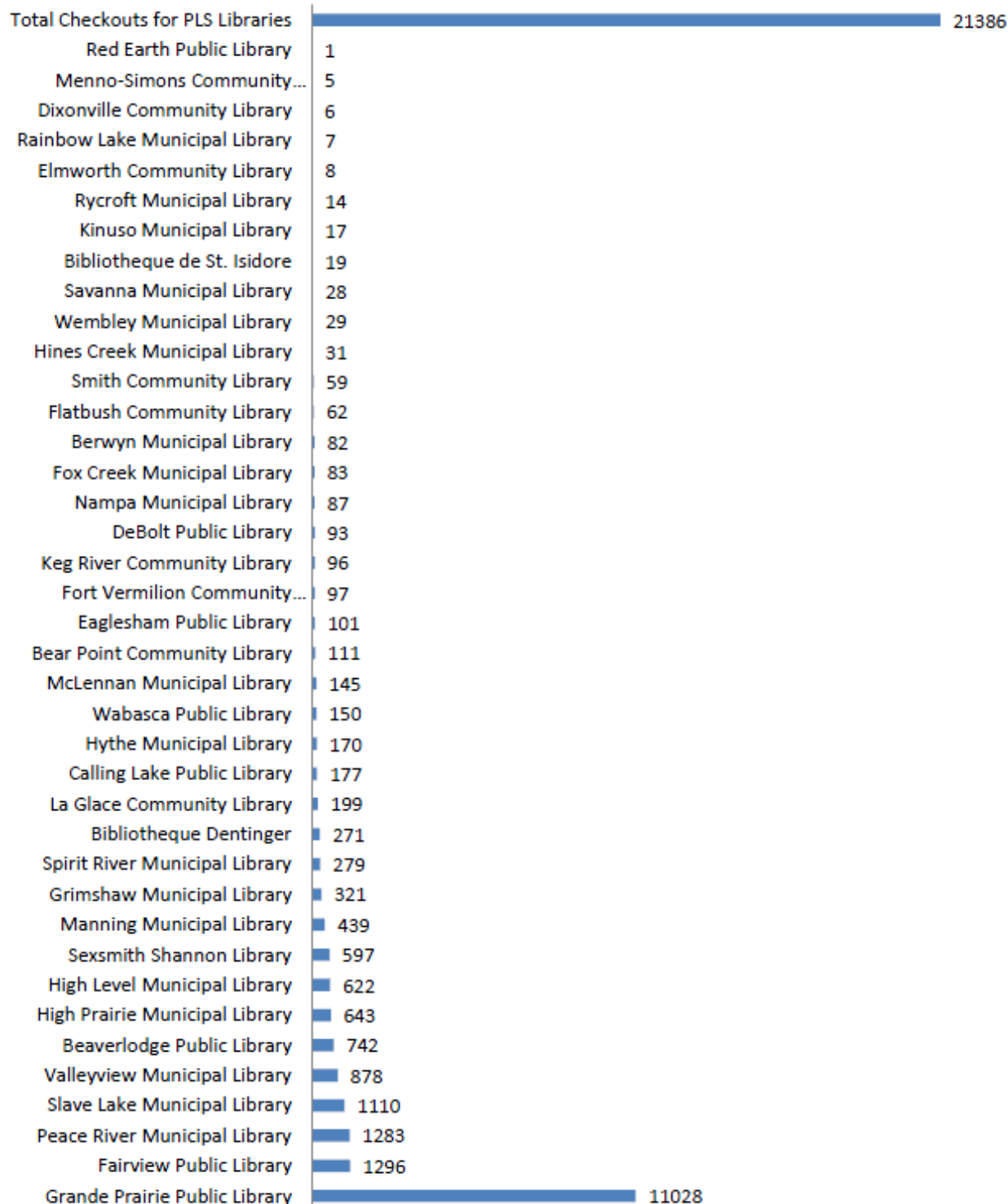
Although we call him Santa Claus, he has many different names around the world. Here are just a few:

- Armenia - Gaghan Baba (Father Christmas)
- Chile - Viejo Pascuero ("Old Man Christmas")
- Egypt - Papa Noël
- France - Père Noël
- Germany - Weihnachtsmann ("Christmas Man" or "Nikolaus")
- Hawaii - Kanakaloka
- Hungary - Mikulas (St. Nicholas)
- Ireland - Daidí na Nollaig (Father Christmas)
- Italy - Babbo Natale
- Norway - Julenissen ("Christmas gnome")
- Russia - Ded Moroz ("Grandfather Frost")
- South Africa - Vader Kersfees
- United Kingdom - Father Christmas



## Overdrive Checkouts from 11/1/2009 through 11/25/2011

■ Checkouts from 11/1/2009 through 11/25/2011



# Grimshaw's Quilt Camp 2011

By Linda Chmilar, Library Manager, Grimshaw Municipal Library

From August 15 to August 19, Seven girls and one boy, ages nine to 14, came to learn how to make a blue jean rag quilt. The goal was to teach the kids to use a variety of tools to create a quilt that will last them a lifetime.

Using up old blue jeans, they cut 80 7" x 7" squares using a cardboard template and scissors, and then with a rotary cutter, mat board, and ruler, they cut 80 squares of flannel.



Above: Just getting started!

in size, easily wrapping around the kids. The families were very impressed with the enthusiasm of their kids, as well as the size of the finished product.

They all want to come back for another class!

We sent them each thank you notes including pictures inviting them to stay connected with us on Facebook and stay updated on events at the Library on our website.

Teaching them the use of the sewing machines, threading bobbins and the machine – was interesting to see how fast they learned and enjoyed using the machines.

I borrowed machines from my friends; I must say that by the end of the week, Susan, Donna and I were sick of fixing machines! Susan McLachlan and Donna Simpson helped me and I couldn't have done it without their help!

We had a tiring week with wonderful results. The finished quilts were 48" x 60"



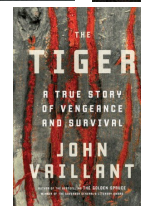
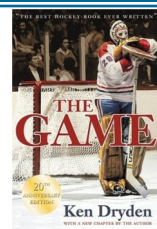
Above: Finishing the quilt.

## CBC's Canada Reads 2012 Nominees Unveiled

The 11th annual Canada Reads contenders have been unveiled.

- ♦ **The Game** by Ken Dryden, championed by Alan Thicke
- ♦ **On a Cold Road** by David Bidini, championed by Stacy McKenzie
- ♦ **Prisoner of Tehran** by Marina Nemat, championed by Arlene Dickinson
- ♦ **Something Fierce** by Carmen Aguirre, championed by Shad
- ♦ **The Tiger** by John Vaillant, championed by Anne-France Goldwater

To learn more about the nominees, please visit [www.cbc.ca/books/canadareads](http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadareads).



## Family Literacy Day - January 27, 2012

Each year, **ABC Life Literacy Canada's Family Literacy Day** is held on the **27th of January**. Its goal is to promote adults and children reading and learning together, and to encourage Canadian families to spend at least 15 minutes every day enjoying a learning activity with each other.

This year's theme is **Journey To Learning**. Families are encouraged to download the **Journey to Learning Passport** and complete as many activities as possible leading up to Family Literacy Day on January 27, 2012.

If you register your Family Literacy Day event at <http://abclifelifiteracy.ca/flid/register> by **January 6, 2012** you will be entered to win a prize pack. You can also visit the website at [www.abclifelifiteracy.ca/family-literacy-day](http://www.abclifelifiteracy.ca/family-literacy-day) for tips, activity ideas and promotional materials to help you with your event.





## Around the System...



**Amy Almond**, facilitator of this year's Summer Reading Program at the **Valleyview Municipal Library**, is shown here with 50 children's books we won from the **Centre for Family Literacy**. Seven Alberta library regions took part in the Centre's *Splash! Celebrate Summer Contest* and our library won for Peace Library System.

Submitted by **Susanne Tremblay**, Library Manager, **Valleyview Municipal Library**



Starting on the left is me, **Joy Grant**, and my daughter, Tannis Grant. Ernie is Madeline Oar and the Witch is Shakira Oar, along with **Glenda Favel**, library assistant. We are cutting the cake so we can all dig in - They are actually cupcakes made into Halloween shapes. A pumpkin, a graveyard and a ghost. The kids that attended loved eating the cake this way. We got them at Sobey's in Slave Lake.

This was at our Halloweeniversary. It is a combination Halloween party and Anniversary that we have every year now. This was our 8th anniversary, and we had just over 40 people attend. We had Halloween crafts all day in which over 15 people participated. There were also door prizes and we gave out a collection of **Dave Glaze's** books to our first winner. We of course had snacks for everyone before we cut the cake - which were fruit, veggie and meat platters.

Submitted by **Joy Grant**, Library Manager, **MD of Opportunity Public Libraries**



**Peace River Municipal Library**, now located in the newly renovated and expanded Peace River Municipal Library & Cultural Centre, celebrated their official grand opening on September 13.

Above: Cutting the ribbon.

Right: Carol Downing presenting a clock on behalf of Peace Library System.



**Kinuso Municipal Library** and **Kinuso School Library** did a joint Art Days.

Kinuso Municipal Library had a great art display from **Grande Prairie Art Gallery**. Students, staff and patrons all had positive comments about the display.

We had two days with a local art teacher, **Helen Gall**, from Slave Lake. Helen did art classes with grade two through to high school. We had after school classes for any age. This was very successful - students, staff and patrons of all ages enjoyed this. All art work was displayed in library and hallways.

We also had a storyteller, **Mary Anne Lippiatt**, from New Sarepta, AB. She was very good for any age group. I would highly recommend her for Peace Library System to bring in. Her email is [lippiatt@mailhub.ca](mailto:lippiatt@mailhub.ca) and phone number 780-941-3843.

Submitted by **Susan Moody**, Library Manager, **Kinuso Municipal Library**



### Summer Reading Wrap Up

Author **Sharlene Weingart** (pictured on the right) visited **Bear Point Community Library** to wrap up the Summer Reading Program. She read four books, including her newest book, ***Grandpa's Loud***. As she read, Sharlene encouraged the children to become great readers and writers. She taught them that good readers look for picture clues and make connections with their own lives. She also encouraged them to all be writers by keeping a journal and writing about what they know. Sharlene's books are beautifully written about her own daughter. For more information check out her website, [www.mommytakesaway.com](http://www.mommytakesaway.com).



### Halloween

Bear Point Community Library once again hosted a Halloween gathering and candy exchange. Children ate pizza for supper, played games in the gym and exchanged candy before heading out trick or treating.

Submitted by **Natalie Keizer**, Library Manager, **Bear Point Community Library**



Here are some photos of our *Time for Tots* group that meets Wednesday mornings at the **Fox Creek Municipal Library** with librarian **Margaret DeBoer**. We celebrate all kinds of things in *Time for Tots*, such as doing the Blue-Footed Boobey Dance, pumpkins and the colour orange, and we made Thanksgiving turkeys out of pears and other fun ingredients.

Submitted by **Leslie Ann Sharkey**, Library Manager, **Fox Creek Municipal Library**



Above: Biblioth que Dentinger/Falher Library before the renovations. Below: Falher Library after the renovations on November 22.



## 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize Winner Announced!



On November 8, Calgary-born author, **Esi Edugyan**, was named the winner of the **2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize** for her novel, *Half Blood Blues*.

On Edugyan's official website, the novel is described as "an eclectic, heart-breaking story about music, race, love and loyalty, and the sacrifices we ask of ourselves, and demand of others, in the name of art." Set in 1939, it tells the story of a star cabaret trumpeter, Hieronymus, who is arrested by the Nazis and is never heard from again. However, Sidney Griffiths, Hieronymus' friend and bandmate, witnessed the arrest and hasn't spoke of it in 50 years....until now. *Half Blood Blues* was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction.

You can learn more about Esi Edugyan and her work at [www.esiedugyan.com](http://www.esiedugyan.com), and more about the Scotiabank Giller prize at [www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca](http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca).

The Scotiabank  
GILLER PRIZE



## 2011 Governor General Literary Award Winners

The winners of the 75th annual **Governor General Literary Awards** were announced on November 15, 2011. For more information please visit: [www.canadacouncil.ca/prizes/ggla](http://www.canadacouncil.ca/prizes/ggla).

### English Language Winners

Fiction:

***The Sisters Brothers*** by Patrick deWitt

Non-fiction:

***Mordecai: The Life & Times*** by Charles Foran

Poetry:

***Killdeer*** by Phil Hall

Drama:

***If We Were Birds*** by Erin Shields

Children's Literature - text:

***From Then to Now: A Short History of the World*** by Christopher Moore

Children's Literature - illustration:

***Ten Birds*** written and illustrated by Cybèle Young

Translation - French to English:

***Partita for Glenn Gould*** translated by Donald Winkler (English translation of *Partita pour Glenn Gould* by Georges Leroux)

### Lauréats de langue française

Fiction:

***L'homme blanc*** par Perrine Leblanc

Non-fiction:

***Wanderer: essai sur le Voyage d'hiver de Franz Schubert*** par Georges Leroux

La poésie:

***Plus haut que les flammes*** par Louise Dupré

Drame:

***Ce qui meurt en denier*** par Normand Chaurette

Littérature jeunesse - texte:

***Les aventures de Radisson -1. L'enfer ne brûle pas*** par Martin Fournier

Littérature jeunesse - illustrations:

***Lili et les poilus*** illustré par Caroline Merola

Traduction - français à l'anglais:

***Toxique ou L'incident dans l'autobus*** traduit par Maryse Warda (traduction français de *The Toxic Bus Incident* par Greg MacArthur)

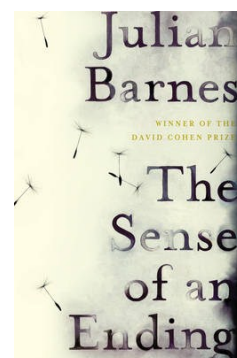
## 2011 Man Booker Prize Winner Revealed

The winner of the **2011 Man Booker Prize for Fiction** was awarded to **Julian Barnes** on October 18 for his book, *The Sense of an Ending*. The story follows Tony Webster, a middle-aged man now divorced and retired, as he is faced with his past due to the return of his closest childhood friends - one that's dead and one that's still living.

Other shortlisted titles for the 2011 Man Booker Prize for Fiction:

***Jamrach's Menagerie*** by Carol Birch  
***The Sisters Brothers*** by Patrick deWitt  
***Half Blood Blues*** by Esi Edugyan  
***Pigeon English*** by Stephen Kelman  
***Snowdrops*** by A. D. Miller

For more information about the Man Booker Prize, please visit [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com).







## 2011 Canadian Children's Literature Award Winners

Winner of the **TD Canadian Children's Literature Award:**

- ♦ ***Plain Kate*** by Erin Bow (Kitchener, ON), Scholastic Canada

Lauréat du **Prix TD de littérature canadienne pour l'enfance et la jeunesse:**

- ♦ ***La fille d'en face*** by Linda Amyot (St-Charles-Boromée, QC), Éditions Leméac

Winner of the **Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award:**

- ♦ ***I Know Here*** by Laurel Croza (Markham, ON), illustrated by Matt James (Toronto, ON), Groundwood Books

Winner of the **Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction:**

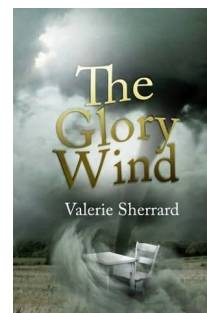
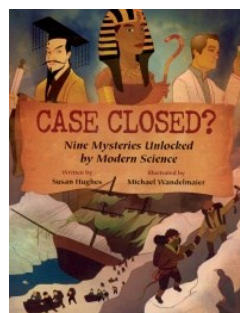
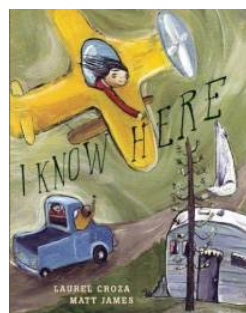
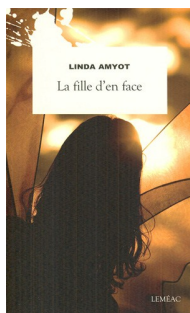
- ♦ ***Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science*** by Susan Hughes (Toronto, ON), Kids Can Press

Nominees for the **Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People:**

- ♦ ***The Glory Wind*** by Valerie Sherrard (Miramichi, NB), Fitzhenry & Whiteside

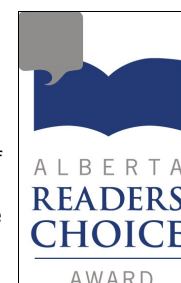
**New Award!** Nominees for the **John Spray Mystery Award:**

- ♦ ***A Spy in the House*** (The Agency) by Y.S. Lee (Kingston, ON), Candlewick Press

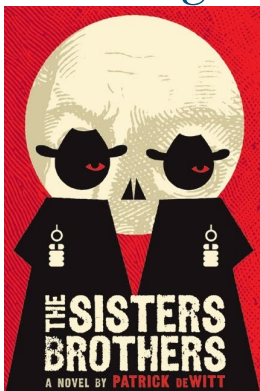


## 2012 Alberta Readers' Choice Award Changes

**Edmonton Public Library** is now the sponsor of the **2012 Alberta Readers' Choice Award**. While the essence of the award has not changed, the award eligibility criteria has. Works of fiction and narrative non-fiction (short story collections or books of poetry) by an author who has been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the publication of the submitted work, and who currently resides in Alberta, regardless of where the book was published, will now be eligible. Deadlines for submissions is December 31, 2011 and more information can be found at [www.albertareaderschoice.ca](http://www.albertareaderschoice.ca).



## 2011 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize



On November 1, **Patrick DeWitt** was announced as the recipient of the **2011 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize** for his novel, ***The Sisters Brothers***.

*The Sisters Brothers* is a dark but humorous novel, paying homage to the classic western genre. It follows brothers Eli and Charlie Sisters, notorious gun slinging assassins, as they hunt their target, Hermann Kermit Warm. Along the way, as they journey from Oregon to California, they encounter a variety of characters and ultimately question why it is they do what they do.

Patrick DeWitt was born on Vancouver Island in 1975, and presently lives in Portland, Oregon. He has written one other novel, ***Ablutions*** (2009).

For more information about Patrick DeWitt, please visit his official website at [patrickdewitt.net](http://patrickdewitt.net). More information on the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize is available at [www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Rogers-Writers--Trust-Fiction-Prize.aspx](http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Rogers-Writers--Trust-Fiction-Prize.aspx).



# 25 for 25:

## The Best Books of Our Time



In celebration of its 25th anniversary in 2011, Peace Library System held a contest to determine the 25 best books published over the last 25 years as selected by residents of northwestern Alberta. Below is the list of winners:

1. Harry Potter series (J.K. Rowling)
2. Love You Forever (Robert Munsch)
3. Water for Elephants (Sara Gruen)
4. The Da Vinci Code (Dan Brown)
5. The Kite Runner (Khaled Hosseini)
6. My Sister's Keeper (Jodi Picoult)
7. Angela's Ashes (Frank McCourt)
8. The Notebook (Nicholas Sparks)
9. Memoirs of a Geisha (Arthur Golden)
10. The Book of Negroes (Lawrence Hill)
11. 50 Below zero (Robert Munsch)
12. The Time Traveler's Wife (Audrey Niffenegger)
13. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo/Millennium Trilogy (Stieg Larsson)
14. Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café (Fannie Flagg)
15. Life of Pi (Yann Martel)
16. As Long as the Rivers Flow (Larry Loyie)
17. Twilight series (Stephenie Meyer)
18. A Thousand Splendid Suns (Khaled Hosseini)
19. A Walk to Remember (Nicholas Sparks)
20. Pillars of the Earth (Ken Follett)
21. The Joy Luck Club (Amy Tan)
22. The Lovely Bones (Alice Sebold)
23. The Secret Life of Bees (Sue Monk Kidd)
24. Three Day Road (Joseph Boyden)
25. A Series of Unfortunate Events (Lemony Snicket)



# The Most Circulated Items for 2011 According to TRACpac



<b>Books - Fiction</b>	<b>Year to date circulation*</b>	<b>Number of items available</b>
1. Guinness world records	2,459	1,390
2. The girl with the dragon tattoo (Steig Larsson)	1,634	250
3. The girl who kicked the hornet's nest (Stieg Larsson)	1,579	177
4. The girl who played with fire (Stieg Larsson)	1,350	214
5. The help (Kathryn Stockett)	1,316	218
6. The hunger games (Suzanne Collins)	1,212	173
7. The confession (John Grisham)	1,205	133
8. Diary of a wimpy kid. Roderick rules (Jeff Kinney)	1,171	181
9. Diary of a wimpy kid. Greg Heffley's journal (Jeff Kinney)	1,144	198
10. Water for elephants: a novel (Sara Gruen)	1,136	169
11. Room: a novel (Emma Donoghue)	1,108	122
12. Secret daughter (Shilpi Somava Gowda)	1,072	133
13. Diary of a wimpy kid. The ugly truth (Jeff Kinney)	1,040	126
14. Mockingjay (Suzanne Collins)	1,026	129
15. Sing you home: a novel (Jodi Picoult)	994	115
16. The search (Nora Roberts)	983	210
17. Catching fire (Suzanne Collins)	950	129
18. Diary of a wimpy kid. Dog days (Jeff Kinney)	928	118
19. Sarah's key (Tatiana de Rosnay)	912	106
20. The land of painted caves (Jean M. Auel)	907	127
21. Live to tell (Lisa Gardner)	891	171
22. Harry Potter and the deathly hallows (J. K. Rowling)	882	417
23. The forgotten garden: a novel (Kate Morton)	881	128
24. Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone (J. K. Rowling)	878	354
25. Hell's corner (David Baldacci)	866	179

## DVDs

1. Alice in Wonderland	1,312	109
2. James Cameron's Avatar	977	63
3. How to train your dragon	969	70
4. Up	883	65
5. Toy story 3	876	63
6. Cloudy with a chance of meatballs	824	53
7. The princess and the frog	789	56
8. Ratatouille	778	64
9. Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban	775	91
10. Monsters vs. aliens	774	45
11. Despicable me	743	49
12. Julie & Julia	733	54
13. Charlotte's web	708	90
14. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	705	81
15. The time traveler's wife	692	43
16. Bolt	672	47
17. Fantastic Mr. Fox	670	41
18. Tangled	668	58
19. The boy in the striped pajamas	668	52
20. Diary of a wimpy kid	666	45
21. Cars	656	69
22. The Incredibles	656	56
23. The blind side	654	55
24. Marley & me	640	63
25. Inkheart	626	63

\* as of November 29, 2011



# Mango Mania Contest

PROMOTE MANGO LANGUAGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY... AND WIN!

## Mango Mania

### GOT A SWEET SPOT FOR MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS?

Get in the game with our Mango Mania Contest! Mango Mania is your chance to win a Samsung Galaxy 10.1 tablet, a Logitech Headset with microphone, a set of 20 Lonely Planet travel guide books and a big basket of Mango swag.

Mango online language learning tools are a great way for all kinds of people to build their practical conversation skills in the world's most popular languages.

Now you (and your promotion pals) can win big by telling people in your community about this valuable resource.

Here's how the Mango Mania Contest works.

Tap into the unique needs of your community and develop and implement a promotional plan for Mango that:

- uses creativity to engage audiences
- describes and demonstrates the benefits of Mango
- engages staff in learning about this cool new language tool

Document your activities and submit your entry by Friday, March 16, 2012, using the attached entry form and any supporting documentation that works for you, including photo essays, blogs, montages or any other format that communicates the purpose and benefits of the activity.

Contest winners and submissions will be profiled at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper in April 2012.

Because Mango is so fresh, fun and user-friendly, the ways that you can tell people in your community about it are limited only by your imagination. Host a Mid-Winter Mango Party. Create a Mango flash mob. Use QR codes in a fun way to direct people to your Mango web page.

You can create a Mango promotional plan for your own library or partner with other libraries in your area.

The good people at Mango Languages make marketing easy by providing a host of promotional tools. You'll find a variety of information, templates, graphics and marketing materials in the 'Free Downloads' section of the 'Promote' tab at <http://promotemango.com> (enter the e-mail account mangomania2012@gmail.com and the password AlbertaRocks1).

Earlier this year, Mango Languages also provided libraries across the province with 'promotional points' that enabled them to access promotional items. The more you promote Mango, the more points you earn.

And the more our library community promotes Mango, the more Albertans will use it and tell their friends and family. Boosting our number of users will increase the likelihood that the provincial license for Mango will be renewed in 2013, so everyone benefits.

Create some Mango magic in your community, and be a shou sha (we think that's Japanese for winner!).

vincere! win!  
WIN! gewinnen!  
vincere! gagner!



# Very Merry Christmas Treats

## Melt-in-Your-Mouth Christmas Marbles

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened  
6 tablespoons powdered sugar  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup minus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
Red and green food colouring

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease cookie sheets or line with parchment paper.
2. Beat butter and powdered sugar in large bowl with electric mixer at medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla until well blended. Gradually add flour and salt, beating after each addition.
3. Transfer half of dough to medium bowl; add red food colouring, beating until well blended and desired shade is reached. Add green food coloring to remaining dough half, beating until well blended and desired shade is reached.
4. For each marble, shape 1/2 teaspoonful of each colour dough into one ball; place 1 inch apart on prepared cookie sheets. Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheets 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.



*Makes about 4 dozen cookies*



## Eggnog Cream Cups

1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar; divided  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg, divided, plus additional for garnish  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened  
3/4 cup cold whipping cream  
3 tablespoons egg substitute  
1/4 teaspoon rum extract

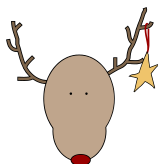
1. Lightly grease 24 mini (1 3/4 inch) muffin cups. Combine flour, 1/3 cup sugar, salt and 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg in large bowl. Add butter; beat with electric mixer at medium speed until coarse crumbs form. Mix by hand until dough forms a ball. Shape dough into 24 (1 inch) balls; press onto bottoms and up sides of prepared muffin cups. Refrigerate 15 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake cups 13 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Press down centre of cups if necessary. Let cool in pans or on wire racks 10 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely.
3. Beat cream and remaining 3 tablespoons sugar in large bowl with electric mixer at high speed until soft peaks form. Add egg substitute, remaining 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg and rum extract; beat until stiff peaks form. Do not over beat! Refrigerate until ready to serve.
4. Just before serving, pipe or spoon about 1 1/2 tablespoons cream mixture into each cooled cookie cup. Sprinkle with additional nutmeg.

*Makes 2 dozen cups*

## Valhalla Community Library: Before & After



This fall, the Valhalla Community Library moved into its new location in the Valhalla Viking Centre. Formerly located in a classroom (left), the library now has double the space, plenty of natural lighting and even a coffee station (right)!



## Freedom to Read Week: February 26 to March 3, 2012

Reaffirm your commitment to intellectual freedom and the right to read by celebrating **Freedom to Read Week**, from **February 26 to March 3, 2012**.

Visit [www.freedomtoread.ca](http://www.freedomtoread.ca) for current information on censorship in Canada, news, links & resources, promotional materials, lists of banned and/or challenged books and ideas for programming and activities.

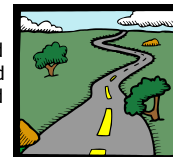
Does your library have a selection policy that addresses censorship or one to deal with books that a patron finds objectionable? How about a reconsideration of library materials form? If not, you may want to visit [www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship\\_in\\_canada/censor.asp](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship_in_canada/censor.asp) for ideas.

# The Journey of Reading

*Submitted by Sue Farrell Holler, President, Grande Prairie Children's Literature Roundtable*

## Birth to ages 5 or 6

For the young child, language skills and communication are increasing rapidly as are imagination and curiosity. Illustrated picture books confirm and expand a child's perception of their world. A beautifully illustrated book with good rhythm and word repetition read aloud encourages children to enjoy storytelling and be comfortable with the prospect of reading. Parents and caregivers have the fun of choosing some of their old favourites as well as discovering the wide variety of newer picture books.



## For ages 5 to 8

Many many years ago movies were filmed in black and white only. Imagine the wonder in 1939 when the scenes of The Wizard of Oz changed from dull black and white Kansas to the brilliantly coloured Land of Oz. That same wonder is felt when a child sees words instead of just individual letters. That moment varies for every child and it is important for parents to understand that children learn to read at different ages. Encouragement and acceptance allows that moment to happen.

When children begin to read, the role of choosing books by adults shifts to the role of guiding children to appropriate reading material. The Canadian Children's Book Centre recommends "A wide variety of books and reading materials, including fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, chapter books, graphic novels and comics, folk and fairy tales, and joke and riddle books."

## For ages 7 to 10

As children develop confidence in reading, they can manage and enjoy more complex story lines. This is the time for books that are part of a series with short episodic chapters, some illustrations and an open friendly format. Trivia and joke books are entertaining as well as books linked by theme or genre. Trips to the library and bookstore are great ways for children to broaden their reading horizons.

## For ages 10 and up

As children begin the road to maturity through adolescence reading provides an opportunity to meet characters with similar issues and concerns. Reading enhances children's sense of self identity and self confidence. This is a time where parents and children can discuss books and ideas.

Sharing books is fun and something that can be done almost anywhere: driving to soccer practice, waiting in a lineup to a movie, sitting at the dentist's office, shopping, doing household chores!

To learn more about the **Grande Prairie Children's Literature Roundtable**, please visit [www.gpclrt.org](http://www.gpclrt.org).

## Upcoming Events



### Peace Library System closed for Christmas Holidays

PLS headquarters will be closed at noon on December 23 and will reopen at 8:00 am on January 3, 2012.

### Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2012

### Board Development Workshop

Peace River Municipal Library  
February 11, 2012

### PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Grande Prairie  
February 25, 2012

### Freedom to Read Week

February 26 to March 3, 2012

### BMI 100 (Become a Master Instructor)

PLS headquarters  
March 5 - 7, 2012

### MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Spirit River Municipal Library  
March 14, 2012; 6:15 pm.

### PLS Board Meeting

Peace River  
March 17, 2012

### MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

Valleyview Municipal Library  
March 21, 2012; 6:00 pm

### PLS Personnel Meeting

Peace River  
March 17, 2012; following Board meeting

### Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS headquarters  
April 16, 2012; 10:30 am

### PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA  
April 21, 2012

### Alberta Library Conference

Jasper  
April 26 to 29, 2012

### Annual General Meeting & PLS Board Meeting

Location TBA  
May 12, 2012