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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Back row, left to right: Rose-Marie Finch, Janet Ayles, Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe, Sheri Goff, Janet Schultz, Karen Van der Woerd, Rae Weniger, Tora Volkers, Wendy Hodges, Carol Downing. Seated, left to right: Andrew Tejero, Alexandria Daum, Linda Duplessis, Alrene Dempster, Cliff Lesh. Not pictured: Julia Little and Katherine Wiebe.

Graffiti Knight piles on the accolades

By Alexandria Daum, Library Consultant, Peace Library System

The latest book by local author Karen Bass, *Graffiti Knight*, has been receiving plenty of attention in the literary world. The book was named the Canadian Library Association 2014 Young Adult Book of the Year, and received the Alberta Literary Awards R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature, as well as the 2014 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People.

Graffiti Knight is about a young man named Wilm, growing up in the town of Leipzig in East Germany after World War II, who uses graffiti to rebel against the Soviet occupiers. Bass has always had an interest in World War II, and has written about it in several of her previous books. The inspiration for this particular work—her first book that is pure historical fiction—actually came after a cup of coffee with a friend.

GRAFFITI KNIGHT continued on page 3

From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System



It was great to see so many of you at the Rural Libraries Conference in September. We had a very good turn-out, inspirational keynote speakers and many excellent workshops. The pre-conference session on book repair was well-attended and received great reviews. We know that many people went back to their libraries inspired and more informed as a result of the conference. Thanks to Alex Daum for so capably coordinating her first ever RLC!

Planning for the Future

After a lot of discussion and planning, Peace Library System (PLS) will be able to maintain current services and balance its budgets for the foreseeable future. We have received approval from 84 per cent of our municipal members to amend the Master Agreement. This will mean a five per cent increase in municipal fees for 2016 to 2018, and will keep us in "the middle of the pack" in terms of library system fees. This shows municipal commitment to public library services for their residents, and we appreciate this strong support. Of course, we will continue to lobby the provincial government for an overall increase in provincial funding for public libraries and library systems.

Beginning in 2015, a portion of allotment contributions will fund regional collection purchases such as eBooks, licensed databases and audio books. This is very timely, as our cost for licensed databases has already increased by \$10,000 for 2015, and provincial subsidies for 2016 and beyond are uncertain (see below). TRAC is also budgeting to spend \$80,000 on eBooks in 2015 to meet ongoing demand. Planning for the future will continue in 2015 when PLS undertakes a Needs Assessment in preparation for developing its 2015-2018 Plan of Service. We will be gathering input from our stakeholders to make sure that the services we provide meet the needs of our members.

Alberta-wide Borrowing is Finally Here

The **Me Card Program** is now available for TRAC/PLS patrons. Library patrons are able to sign up online for whatever public library they will be visiting and use their local card at that library. The lending library's policies will determine loan periods and the number of items that can be borrowed by the ME patron. Information and promotional materials have been sent to member libraries, and training webinars are available for library managers to learn more about the program. (Note: A TAL card will still be needed to borrow from college and university libraries.)

Plastic Cards are Coming - I Promise!

It sounded so simple for the TRAC Directors to say "Let's order plastic TRAC cards to celebrate Alberta-wide borrowing".

Well, it's not quite so simple and it's been a learning process! I'm happy to announce that the cards have been ordered and you should receive them sometime in December (if all goes well). Thanks to Alrene at PLS for all of her behind-the-scenes work to get the card order ready.

Provincial e-Content

The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) has confirmed that it is funding or partially funding **Mango, Press Display, Zinio, Hoopla** and an **Alberta eBooks Project** for members of the Public Library Network in 2014-2015. We will be closely monitoring Hoopla usage as the Province has assigned a finite amount of funding for each region. Budgeting for PLS eResources in 2015 has been challenging because the PLSB has only recently indicated which resources might be covered for all or part of 2015. We're making our best guess and budgeting \$38,000 for 2015.

Lots of Interest in Online Financial Courses

PLS is partnering with Northern Lakes College to offer two financial online courses for member library staff and trustees. *Reading & Understanding Financial Statements* and *Budgeting Basics for Non-Profit Organizations* will be offered in late November and early December, and have proven to be very popular. This is part of our commitment to increase training opportunities for libraries in 2014.

Services for Print-Disabled Library Patrons

The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) has subscribed to two services for print disabled patrons. One is the National Network of Equitable Library Access (NNELS), which will offer nearly 10,000 eAudio titles by the end of 2014. The other is the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), which replaces the CNIB Library Partners Program, and will provide public library patrons with access to 86,500 items and a further 145,000 titles through a digital service. Please contact your library consultant for information on how to sign up so that your patrons can access these services.

Anti-Spam Legislation

Some questions have arisen about the impact of the new Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) on public libraries and library systems. Katherine Wiebe has been examining the legislation and participated in a webinar through the Canadian Library Association (CLA). She has so far determined that most library and library system activities will not be affected by CASL. The one exception is "e-mail outs" that libraries may do for promotion or fundraising purposes. In consultation with her TRAC Public Library Services Group (PSG) colleagues, she is developing information to send out to member libraries to make them aware of the legislation and its possible impact.

System News Bits

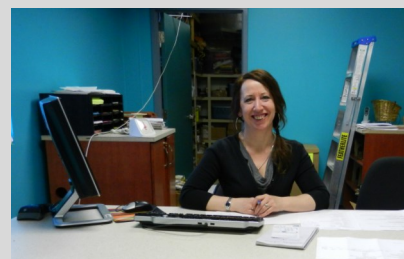
Congratulations to **Melanie DenOudsten**, library assistant at **High Level Municipal Library**. Melanie gave birth to a baby girl, Annika Margaret DenOudsten (top right) on August 30, 2014 at 1:32 p.m. Baby Annika weighed 8 lbs, 6 oz. Congratulations to Melanie!

Rachel Stoesz is now the library manager of the **DeBolt Public Library**. She took over from Yvonne McIntyre in September.

Barb Elmworth is now the library manager of the **Elmworth Community Library**. She took over from Doreen Dunbar, who moved to Grande Prairie.

Dawn Cardinal (middle right) is the new library manager at **Paddle Prairie Public Library**.

Frankie Williams-Atkinson (bottom right) is now the library manager of the **Rainbow Lake Municipal Library**. She took over from Chelsea Burge.



Local author's latest book an overwhelming success

GRAFFITI KNIGHT continued from page 1

"[My friend's] dad had been a teenager in Leipzig in WWII," Bass explains. "After composting for a while, I thought it would make a good story. Post-WWII hasn't been done a lot [set] in Germany."

The book has received rave reviews for its historical depiction, unique setting, and believable characterization. The CLA called it a "powerful and informative story." Bass says the attention for the novel has been a little "overwhelming" but she's having fun with it.

Bass did not grow up wanting to be a writer, but she did always have a love of reading. "Every writer is a reader first," she says. This led her to her job at the Hythe Municipal Library, where she started in 1995 and worked for over 16 years before leaving to focus on her writing full-time.

"I'd always loved books, so working in a library was a dream job," she says. During her time at the library, Bass was "bitten by the writing bug." Over the years, she's worked hard to hone her craft, and cites Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* as one of the most influential resources she used when working on her writing. Her advice for writers, especially now in an

era of self-publishing, is "don't be in such a hurry to publish."

"It's too easy to click the publish button before you have learned the craft," she says. "Everyone can write, but to write at a level where a publisher wants you takes practice."

Bass has had four young adult books published since 2008: *Run Like Jager*, *Summer of Fire*, *Drummer Girl*, and most recently, *Graffiti Knight*. Her next novel is currently in the works, and is set to be released in spring 2015. It's a story of a 17-year-old German prisoner-of-war in a Lethbridge prisoner-of-war camp, who gets sent to a fictional Northwestern Alberta town to work.

For Bass, she's come full circle in many ways. She's providing young adults with stories—something she treasured in her own youth. "I love books and I see their value. When I was growing up, I travelled the world through books," she says. "Now, I can write stories and some other child can travel through books."





News & Notes

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

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Rural Libraries Conference Review

By Alexandria Daum, Conference Coordinator

The 2014 Rural Libraries Conference, themed *Innovate. Stimulate. Transform.*, took place on September 25 and 26, 2014. Delegates left ready to transform their libraries and schools through innovation and creativity.

The conference took place at the Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre in Grande Prairie, and had nearly 140 registered delegates, as well as 22 exhibitors. Delegates were able to choose from 26 concurrent sessions over the course of two days, on everything from programming with Lego to emergency preparedness.

Dr. Stephen Murgatroyd, an innovation policy expert, opened the conference on Thursday morning, providing a stimulating keynote about societal changes shaping our world and the impact these changes have on libraries (right). Author and playwright **Marty Chan** gave Friday morning's keynote about how to engage and stimulate the imagination of young readers.



Delegates also had the chance to attend a Thursday evening exhibitor reception, where many won door prizes. Some made the trip to Peace Library System headquarters on Thursday evening for a social event—an International Food Fair (pictured below).



Congratulations to **Judy Smith** of **Valleyview Municipal Library** for winning the early bird registration prize (a Kobo Arc donated by **Encana**), and to **Maureen Radcliffe** of **Niton Library** for winning the Exhibitor Bingo game prize (a Kindle Paperwhite donated by Innovative). Thank you to everyone who participated in the exhibitor game.

Also, congratulations to **Kayla Killoram** of **High Prairie Municipal Library** (pictured right) for winning the poster contest with her Dr. Seuss-inspired poster! The prize was a Canon Powershot camera and gift basket, generously donated by **Watson's Foto Source**.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the conference as a delegate, a speaker, a sponsor, or an exhibitor. Also, sincerest thanks to Doug Duplessis for volunteering his time throughout the conference to take photographs.



Save the dates for RLC 2015: September 24 and 25!

For more information about the upcoming conference, please visit

www.rurallibrariesconference.com

Excellence in Library Service Awards

By Alexandria Daum, Conference Coordinator

Maureen Fisher of the **McLennan Municipal Library** in **McLennan**, and **Sylvia Chabot** of **École St. Gerard** in **Grande Prairie**, were recognized for their outstanding work in public and school library service when they received the Excellence in Library Service awards for 2014. The awards were presented at the Rural Libraries Conference in Grande Prairie on September 25.

Maureen Fisher (right) was raised in Southwestern Ontario, and has previously worked in the educational, legal and medical fields, but libraries have always held a special place in her heart. Now, she's working in one of her first loves—the library—and her energy and creativity has transformed the McLennan Municipal Library. The Town of McLennan Library Board Chair, Philippa O'Mahony, who nominated Maureen, writes, "There is a time when an organization—in this case, the McLennan Municipal Library—is jogging along quite nicely, but it's *just* jogging. Then comes an individual who injects new life, new enthusiasm, and vision, and in no time the jogging starts to pick up speed. Maureen is that individual."



Maureen has undertaken numerous transformative initiatives above and beyond her responsibilities as Library Manager. She has developed new programs at the library, such as a Bookworm Club for book-lovers and a course on genealogy. Maureen has also worked hard to develop partnerships with other organizations in the community: she organized a Coffee House with singer/songwriter Cassie Walker, instigated the "Food for Fines" program with proceeds going to the Food Bank, and arranged for exhibits of artwork and quilts at the library from local artists. It isn't just Maureen's new, creative ideas that have endeared her to the community. As library patron and volunteer Anita Brochu explains, it's her personality. She writes, "Maureen is an amazing librarian. She is passionate about her work and is genuinely interested in every one of her patrons. She is knowledgeable and is willing to do what she can to be of assistance. Maureen's smile and disposition welcomes all those who come into our library."

Sylvia Chabot (right) is originally from Donnelly, Alberta and has been the school librarian at École St. Gerard for 11 years. In that time, much has changed in both schools and libraries. As new systems and software have come and gone, Sylvia has worked to remain current. Sylvia has embraced the increasing role of technology in school libraries, transforming the library at École St. Gerard into a library commons that is an invaluable facet of the school. Henri Chauvet, principal at École St. Gerard, nominated Sylvia and explains her important role in creating the new library environment: "She has taken it on herself to learn more about 21st century learning. She has learned about the latest programs, for example, Google and iPads, and can troubleshoot most technical issues to aid the students and teachers in their research." Sylvia even spent extra volunteer hours weeding the library to create the space needed for the library commons. She now handles iPad maintenance and distribution, apps purchasing, and a variety of other programs.



In addition to Sylvia's dedication to providing resources to her colleagues, her work creating a library commons has had an impact on students. Chauvet writes that "she has created and maintained the library so that it is the hub of the school." He adds, "students are always encouraged to read, work and learn in our library. It is no longer a 'shh environment'; there is busy noise evidencing productivity with students actively involved in working collaboratively." Her dedication is evident among the children she serves. One grade two student writes, "Madame Sylvia is always happy. She's always very helpful. She'll help you find books even when she is busy with something else." Darryl Thibault, the vice-principal at École St. Gerard, says Sylvia is not only a wonderful resource, but she also a wonderful person. He states, "Mme Sylvia is not only kind, inviting, and helpful—she is enthusiastic about learning new things and creating an ideal environment for the students to learn. She's a happy person and a great colleague who likes to have fun and enjoy life. She definitely helps make St. Gerard a great place to be!"

Tech Services Tidbits

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



As winter arrives each year, acquisitions staff begin to prepare for year-end rollover activities. As always, staff will be working hard to ensure that all orders get entered and sent to vendors before year-end cut off. In order for them to accomplish this, all orders from member libraries must be received at Peace Library System headquarters **no later than November 28 at 4:00 p.m.** Orders received after that date will not be entered and sent to the vendors until January 2015. All Vouchers must be received at Peace Library System headquarters **no later than December 15 at noon.** Vouchers received after that date will not be entered and paid until January 2015. Your cooperation will ensure that year-end activities are accomplished in a timely manner.

We are still missing Julia Little who remains on short term disability. We all miss her cheery smile and look forward to her return.

The French Language Resource Centre has received a grant which allows them to purchase more French Language Resources. The items will be a mixture of teacher resources, novels and other nonfiction material. Resources will be available to borrow online with your public library membership card through TRACpac.

From the IT Desk

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, Peace Library System



Christmas Hours

It's beginning to look a lot like snow (and if your weather is anything like it has been here in Grande Prairie, it's been a lot of snow). The arrival of snow usually means that Christmas isn't too far off. Christmas means school breaks and vacations! Will your library be closing at all over the Christmas season? If the answer is yes, please email me and let me know when your library will be closed. In order to calculate due dates and fines properly, Polaris needs to be updated with closures. Send any changes to your library hours to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Polaris Upgrade

I know—those two words can strike fear in the heart of even the most stoic of library manager. Never fear though—good things are coming with the new version of Polaris! With the new version, patrons will be able to view eBook holdings for OverDrive and 3M directly in TRACpac. Patrons will even be able to check items out from TRACpac without having to go to an external site. It will be one less step along the journey of borrowing eBooks and audiobooks! Launch day is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2015. Brace yourself as Polaris will be unavailable while the servers are being upgraded. More information will be sent out to you as we get closer to the upgrade date.

Mobile Lab

PLS has two mobile computer labs available for use by our libraries. Each lab contains five laptops and a projector. Labs can be borrowed for up to a month. Please simply send an email to me at jayles@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca to make arrangements.

Helpdesk

As always, if you have any questions or non-emergency concerns please submit them to the online Helpdesk or via email to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. However, for emergencies, please call! Emergencies, also known as **critical functions**, are problems logging in to Polaris, checking items in or out, patron registration, or searching in TRACpac.

Microsoft Office Tips & Tricks

By Andrew Tejero, Network Analyst, Peace Library System

We all use Microsoft Office in our day-to-day tasks. Lots of its bundled applications have huge ribbons or toolbars with vast arrays of features as icons on them. These are some tips and tricks for the most commonly used Office Programs: Outlook and Word. I've based this on Office 2010 but many functions will be the same or similar on other versions.

Here are some **Outlook** keyboard shortcuts that will allow you to quickly access the most commonly used actions without having to search around on the screen for them:

- **Ctrl+R**: reply to email
- **Alt+R**: reply to all in email or switch to the work week calendar view
- **Alt+W**: forward email or switch to the weekly calendar view
- **Ctrl+M**: F9 to Send/Receive all
- **Alt+S**: Send email
- **Ctrl+G**: open "Go to date" dialog to jump to any date in the calendar



Here are some cool tips for **Microsoft Word**:

- Need to select a vertical column of text? Press the ALT key while dragging the mouse across the text you want to select, it will allow you to select columns instead of lines. Remember to **RELEASE THE ALT KEY** before you depress the mouse button, otherwise it will open up the Research Assistant.
- If you're typing in Word, sometimes might find yourself typing a series of dashes or hyphens, and suddenly Word's AutoFormat feature inserts a horizontal line across the page. You can't select it; you can't delete it. Some victims of this feature simply abandon the document with the line and start a new one instead. **Here's how to get rid of that line.** Word has inserted a border at the bottom of the current paragraph. To remove it, click inside the paragraph; go to the Home tab and click on the Borders icon at the lower right of the Paragraph group. On the pop-up menu, the first item—Bottom Border—will be selected. Click on No Border, and the border will disappear. You can prevent these borders from appearing by going to File, Options, AutoCorrect Options, then choose the AutoFormat as You Type tab, and in the section "Apply as you type," remove the checkmark next to Border Lines.
- Use the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl+X** to cut, **Ctrl+C** to copy and **Ctrl+V** to paste. Another handy shortcut can be to use **Ctrl+A** to select all the text in a document.

2014 By the Numbers in the Peace Region

Number of Patrons = 43,622

Number of New Patrons = 7,813

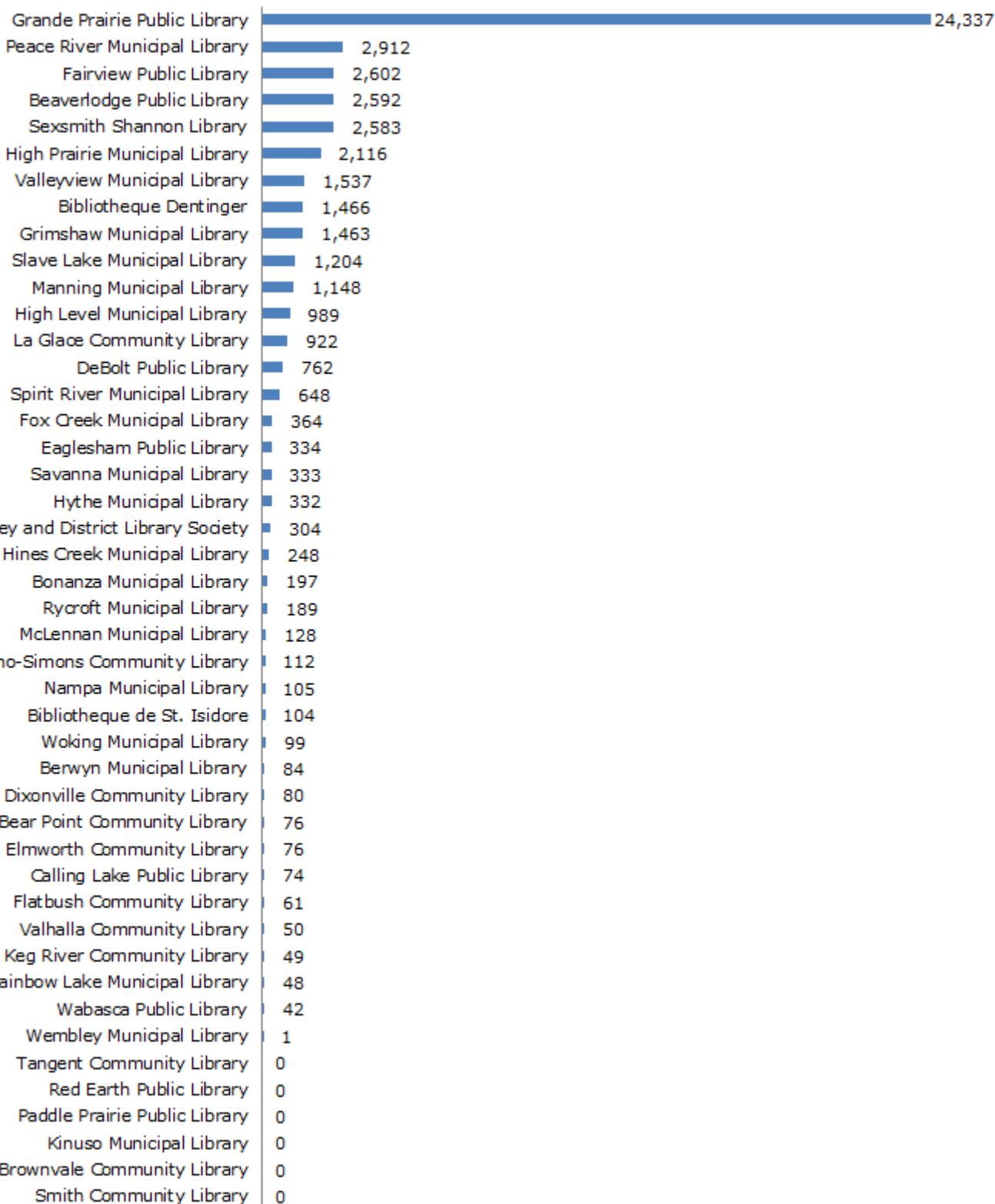
Number of Checkouts = 816,048

Number of Items Added = 70,226

Number of Holds Satisfied = 120,967

Number of Holds Placed = 57,705

OverDrive Checkouts from January 1 - November 26, 2014



Grande Prairie Public Library	24,337
Peace River Municipal Library	2,912
Fairview Public Library	2,602
Beaverlodge Public Library	2,592
Sexsmith Shannon Library	2,583
High Prairie Municipal Library	2,116
Valleyview Municipal Library	1,537
Bibliotheque Dentinger	1,466
Grimshaw Municipal Library	1,463
Slave Lake Municipal Library	1,204
Manning Municipal Library	1,148
High Level Municipal Library	989
La Glace Community Library	922
DeBolt Public Library	762
Spirit River Municipal Library	648
Fox Creek Municipal Library	364
Eaglesham Public Library	334
Savanna Municipal Library	333
Hythe Municipal Library	332
Worsley and District Library Society	304
Hines Creek Municipal Library	248
Bonanza Municipal Library	197
Rycroft Municipal Library	189
McLennan Municipal Library	128
Menno-Simons Community Library	112
Nampa Municipal Library	105
Bibliotheque de St. Isidore	104
Woking Municipal Library	99
Berwyn Municipal Library	84
Dixonville Community Library	80
Bear Point Community Library	76
Elmworth Community Library	76
Calling Lake Public Library	74
Flatbush Community Library	61
Valhalla Community Library	50
Keg River Community Library	49
Rainbow Lake Municipal Library	48
Wabasca Public Library	42
Wembley Municipal Library	1
Tangent Community Library	0
Red Earth Public Library	0
Paddle Prairie Public Library	0
Kinuso Municipal Library	0
Brownvale Community Library	0
Smith Community Library	0

TOTAL CHECKOUTS for Peace Library System = 50,771

The Top Circulated Items in TRAC for 2014

Books	Year to date circulation*	Previous year's total circulation	Number of items available*
1. <i>Guinness world records</i>	2,391	2,105	1,487
2. <i>Insurgent</i> (Veronica Roth)	1,161	750	146
3. <i>Allegiant</i> (Veronica Roth)	1,052	136	143
4. <i>Divergent</i> (Veronica Roth)	1,026	713	122
5. <i>Gone Girl: A novel</i> (Gillian Flynn)	962	913	106
6. <i>A House in the Sky: A memoir</i> (Amanda Lindhout)	959	207	103
7. <i>The Invention of Wings</i> (Sue Monk Kidd)	946	0	101
8. <i>The Fault In Our Stars</i> (John Green)	937	480	148
9. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. The Ugly Truth</i> (Jeff Kinney)	884	1,009	191
10. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. Cabin Fever</i> (Jeff Kinney)	864	1,050	172
11. <i>Sycamore Row</i> (John Grisham)	860	227	98
12. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. Greg Heffley's Journal</i> (Jeff Kinney)	844	1,001	259
13. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. Hard Luck</i> (Jeff Kinney)	841	124	125
14. <i>An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth</i> (Chris Hadfield)	820	56	111
15. <i>The Hunger Games</i> (Suzanne Collins)	803	1,036	353
16. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. Dog Days</i> (Jeff Kinney)	798	1,002	212
17. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. The Third Wheel</i> (Jeff Kinney)	797	999	162
18. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. Rodrick Rules</i> (Jeff Kinney)	797	999	245
19. <i>Mockingjay</i> (Suzanne Collins)	786	989	256
20. <i>The Rosie Project</i> (Graeme C. Simsion)	781	195	83
21. <i>Dark Witch</i> (Nora Roberts)	772	238	119
22. <i>The Giver</i> (Lois Lowry)	752	349	298
23. <i>The Maze Runner</i> (James Dashner)	730	368	142
24. <i>The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared</i> (Jonas Jonasson)	727	631	101
25. <i>Diary Of A Wimpy Kid. The Last Straw</i> (Jeff Kinney)	717	932	245
DVDs			
1. Frozen	1,236	0	97
2. Despicable Me 2	1,199	45	69
3. Brave	1,135	1,327	84
4. Monsters University	1,124	186	75
5. The Book Thief	1,035	0	81
6. Tangled	915	1,023	89
7. 12 Years A Slave	900	0	75
8. The Croods	870	191	60
9. Planes	826	73	54
10. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire	819	0	70
11. Despicable Me	807	851	75
12. The Hunger Games	805	1,326	93
13. Epic	767	230	55
14. The Butler	741	0	52
15. Wreck-It Ralph	739	736	54
16. Captain Phillips	738	0	49
17. The Help	727	1,099	96
18. Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs	714	578	55
19. The Lorax	701	982	75
20. Turbo	689	95	49
21. Hotel Transylvania	675	738	50
22. Gravity	675	0	46
23. Saving Mr. Banks	673	0	48
24. The Smurfs 2	630	33	44
25. The Lone Ranger	620	12	40



* as of November
26, 2014

From the Information Desk

By Charlotte Anderson, Emerging Technologies Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library



On September 20, the Grande Prairie Public Library hosted our first Comic Con, inviting people of all ages into the library to participate in a variety of programs aimed towards hobbyists and enthusiasts of comic books and graphic novels, anime, television and movies, novels, science fiction/fantasy, etc. LibriCon provided these fans with a chance to engage with the things they love and a place to interact with other people who share the same interests. We saw approximately 400 people attend, though the official count says 1,077 people walked into the library between 10 am and 5 pm that Saturday.

Creating your own Comic Con is possible on whatever scale you're able to do it. We found that the key thing people were looking for was a place to meet and interact with fellow LibriCon goers. Are you thinking it's something you'd like to try? Think: word of mouth, contests, staff skills, and community expertise. Advertising for LibriCon occurred through social media and word of mouth, including LibriCon branding. We created a Facebook event as well as utilized the library's Twitter account. By September 20, 400 people had been invited over Facebook and 100 had agreed to attend (initially, the library sent out about 10 invites to staff and friends with the instruction to share). The local comic book stores each had posters and other promotional materials, and in early September we gave posters to schools. The Library itself gave out paper bookmarks and promoted LibriCon at the circulation desk, and the enthusiastic responses immediately told us it was going to be a successful day.

One of the main draws of LibriCon was the Cosplay Contest, which gave participants the chance to dress up as their favourite characters and show off their creativity.



Over 75 people participated, and the winners were dressed as characters from Star Wars, Game of Thrones, Minecraft, and Rise of the Guardians. Winners were judged by votes for a total of 4 prizes. We also catered contests towards fanartists and fanvidders (people who create art and videos based on the media they enjoy), and had a trivia contest and a gaming competition.



LibriCon utilized the skills of many library staff, as well as the knowledge from experts in the community. Library staff loaned their expertise on drawing anime, costume basics, and fanfiction, as well as the ongoing expertise that went into the planning of LibriCon itself. Professor Edward Bader from the Grande Prairie Regional College did a session on the *Brief History of Comics*. Gordon Marcinkoski from Anime Hypercube led two sessions: *Tone Workshop* and *Collaborative Comic*. Dr. Bartek Lenart spoke about *Doctor Who and the Philosophy of Time Travel*, putting his doctorate in philosophy to excellent use. Wonderland Toy and Hobby set up a *Magic: the Gathering* card tournament in the Rotary Training Room, reporting that LibriCon had the largest *Magic: the Gathering* tournament ever held in Grande Prairie. Finally, we had the very special opportunity to have Grande Prairie-born actor Alex Zahara call in via Skype for an hour to answer questions about his career.

Once Grande Prairie residents started to hear about LibriCon, we experienced a lot of people stepping forward volunteering their services, and a lot of interest from vendors and hobbyist groups to have tables. Unfortunately, we were not able to have vendors at our LibriCon, but it's a possibility we'll explore in 2015. LibriCon was based in enthusiasm and a sense of community—not just the Grande Prairie community, but also the community of local people who love the things they love, whether it's a comic book or a television series or a movie. Typically, the places they feel most at home are in niche groups and online. They need a voice and they need a place where they can be comfortable, and isn't a dynamic group of enthusiasts for material typically in libraries exactly the people we're here for?

Snapshot Day Review

For the first time, Peace Library System libraries participated in Library Snapshot Day this year. The idea behind Snapshot Day is to show the community what happens every day in the library. Libraries collected information, comments, stories, and photographs to capture a "snapshot" of a day in their library. This included information on how many people visited the library in a given day, how many reference questions were answered, how many programs were held, and more. The results show the impact of libraries on Albertans as places of learning and fun. This year, 18 Peace Library System libraries participated in Snapshot Day. Below are some of the words and quotes patrons across the system used to describe their library, as well as regional data.

In one day at libraries in Peace Library System...

293

eBooks were
downloaded

>> Welcoming

>> Inspiring

>> Community

>> Amazing

2,973

Items were
circulated

Your
library in
your words

1,456

Items loaned
between libraries

>> Informative

>> Friendly

>> Engaging

>> Awesome

“My library makes long winter days better!”

“A value to the community and a must in every town.”

“Love that I can get any resources with the click of a button.”

“A definite asset to the community.”

“Our library makes it possible for us to explore the whole world together as a family from our living room.”

INNOVATE. STIMULATE. TRANSFORM. RLC 2014

**THANK YOU to all our
sponsors and donors!**

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Silver level sponsors: CVS Midwest Tape, United Library Services

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Around the System...

The **Peace River Municipal Library** hosted their Snapshot Day in October and had great turnout, as shown on their poster!

- Submitted by **Raylene Snider**, Communications Coordinator, Peace River Municipal Library

SNAPSHOT DAY RESULTS

In October we held a Snapshot Day, like many Libraries in Alberta did, to capture what ONE day in the Library looks like.

The statistics shown on this page are from the entire system's Snapshot Day. These stats help to provide continued funding for programs, books and many other things!

Locally, we had OVER 650 people come through our doors on October 31st. A new record for us! Watch for the banner that will hang in the Library with more of Peace River's responses to surveys, stats and photos!!

Thank you all for helping make this day a true success!

A special thanks to Peace Parent Link for their AWESOME Story Time. Also special thanks to the Interact Club of Peace River for their hard work on the very spooky Haunted Library, upstairs and downstairs!!!

293 E-Books Downloaded

2,973 Items Circulated

1,456 Items Loaned between Libraries



Around the System...

At **Slave Lake Public Library**, we've had successful fall regular programming which includes Story Time Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Lego @ the Library Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Afternoon Movie Time Wednesdays, Youth Night Tuesdays and Puzzles, and Games Fridays. We have also added a few new programs including Pyjama Story Time, a new Lego @ the Library for ages five and up, youth book club and youth movie night. The old programs as well as the new ones are well attended and enjoyed by all who come!

On October 30, we held our Halloween party! Ages two to nine were in the Lion's Den and ages nine and up were in the programming room. All together we had about 60 kids in attendance. We played games and did crafts and everyone had a good time!

On November 18, we had a 'tattoo a banana' youth night, and all the kids had a lot of fun! It was something no one had done or heard of before and everyone had a good time!

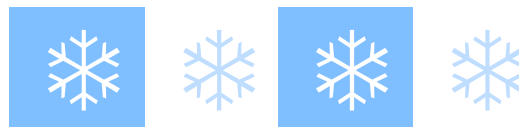


- Submitted by **Desiree Remillard**, Programming and Public Relations Services, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library



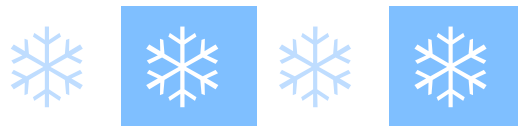
The staff at **Menno-Simons Community Library** and School: Laura Lewis, Justina Peters, Sylvia Gula, and Donna Ross (left to right).

- Submitted by **Sylvia Gula**, Library Manager, Menno-Simons Community Library



At **Kinuso Municipal Library**, we held a fun night for any children from grade one to grade five in October, and had a great attendance of 43 children. We had five different board games, four card games, two crafts and hop scotch rug to wear off energy. It was a big success. On another night we had 15 children for craft night and they all had fun. A big thank you to our three volunteers.

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



Around the System...



The **Hythe Municipal Library** has a new circulation desk that they are very happy with. They also have two free papercraft programs running, thanks to the support of Encana. A papercrafts for kids program runs every Thursday afternoon and a Christmas card workshop for adults is held every Wednesday evening.

- Submitted by **Charlene McCoy**, Library Manager, Hythe Municipal Library



The **Rainbow Lake Municipal Library** has recently completed renovations. They now have a new circulation desk and children's area.

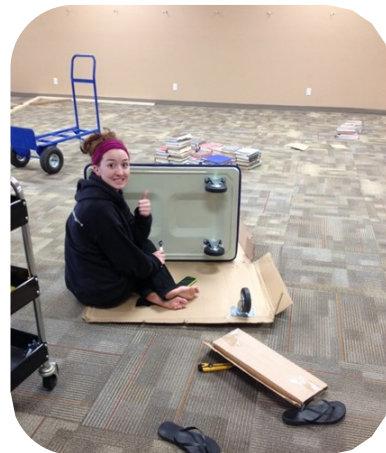
- Photos by **Katherine Wiebe**, Consulting Services Manager, Peace Library System



Valleyview Happenings

Submitted by Kerri Danner, Library Manager, Valleyview Municipal Library

It's been a very busy year at the Valleyview Municipal Library. The library was closed for the month of August while the flooring was replaced. We were fortunate to have some great volunteers to aid us in this project. Our volunteers included board members and their families, staff and families, volunteers from local churches, and the Prairie Rose 4H Club members and their parents who helped us move all of our books and shelving and helped put everything back! The library gave a \$500 donation to the 4H Club to thank them for their help. We've been getting some great feedback about our new look. After the renovation, we took the opportunity to rearrange our shelving and furnishings, and were able to create some new seating areas. People have been really happy, especially with our new teen area, which has been attracting quite a few teens after school coming to the library to read, do homework and hang out and visit with their friends.



We held our Snapshot Day on October 31 and had over 360 people visit. We had Halloween crafts and treats to hand out for kids. Adults who visited in costume were given a gift certificate to redeem for a one-year membership. We also set up a photo booth which was very popular—we took 172 pictures which were posted on the library Facebook page. It was really cool to see all the 'likes' and people sharing the pictures with their friends and family.



ME Libraries Launches!



The exciting news we've all been waiting for is finally here—ME Libraries has launched for TRAC. So what exactly is ME Libraries and how does it impact your patrons?

ME Libraries is a service for patrons who are *physically travelling* to another library in Alberta that is not a member of TRAC; now, it's easy for your patron to walk in and borrow something at a non-TRAC library! Your patron simply has to register on melibraries.ca before their visit and then they can use their TRAC card at any ME Library they have registered for to take out items, which can then be returned to their local library.

To register for ME Libraries, patrons visit melibraries.ca, enter their patron barcode and PIN (last four digits of their phone number), accept the terms, and then click "Sign up" for all libraries they wish to be registered for. It's that easy!

ME Libraries does not impact patrons who are putting holds for items within TRAC, or who want an ILL from outside TRAC. Patrons who would like to order a book from outside TRAC still need to use talonline.ca.

A separate TAL card will still be needed to borrow in-person from college and university libraries. More information can be found on the TRAC ME Libraries lending policy on the TRAC website, as well as the ME libraries wiki (wiki.melibraries.ca). You can also visit our website at peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/ME.

Find Peace Library System online:



Upcoming Events



Peace Library System Closed for Christmas Holidays

PLS Headquarters will be closed at noon on December 24 and will reopen at 8:00 am on January 5.

Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2015

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Hythe, AB
February 21, 2015

Freedom to Read Week

February 22-28, 2015

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
March 21, 2015; 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA
April 18, 2015; 10:30 am

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters
April 20, 2015; 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge
April 30—May 3, 2015

PLS Board Meeting/Annual General Meeting

Grande Prairie, AB
May 9, 2015

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 11, 2015; 10:00 am