

Duchess and District Public Library Joins Shortgrass

On May 13th, 2011, the Duchess and District Public Library (DDPL) agreed to become a partner with the Shortgrass Library System (SLS).

Becoming a member library of Shortgrass means that DDPL patrons now have a larger collection of materials to choose from. DDPL patrons will be able to borrow from any of the Shortgrass member



libraries, including Brooks and Medicine Hat without having to pay a non-resident fee. This will save some families up to \$80 per year. Plus, they can have their selections delivered right to DDPL for pickup, without charge. Not only will DDPL patrons have access to all Shortgrass materials, but as part of a regional system they will be able to borrow from any library in Alberta.

There will be a transition phase over the next few months, involving the logistics of providing DDPL patrons access to all of the SLS resources. The patience of DDPL patrons will be especially appreciated during this period.



Sandra Peers, DDPL
Board Chair

In joining SLS, Sandra Peers the DDPL Board Chair remarked, “pooling resources makes sense. By entering this partnership we just increased the collection available to local patrons by about 100 times.”

“The expanded services for the library that comes from being a part of Shortgrass, are great for area residents,” adds Wayne Dahl, a Duchess Councilor and member of the DDPL Board. “Duchess is a growing community, convenient to Brooks, with several new businesses and a great selection of new lots for those wishing to live here!”



Shannon Vanderloh,
Manager of the DDPL

Shannon Vanderloh, the manager of the DDPL stated, “joining Shortgrass means that our Duchess and area members will have access to new services and materials. These include eBooks and online resources like the *Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center* and *Mango* language learning software, which gives our patrons the opportunity to learn over 20 different languages.”

Kathi Herman, Chair of the Shortgrass Library Board, says “we are very pleased to be able welcome Duchess and District residents along with the DDPL Board in our partnership. Libraries are all the same size when connected. It is an important day because with DDPL joining SLS, our region is now complete.

With DDPL becoming a member, the Shortgrass Library System is the first regional library system in the province to have all eligible municipalities as members.

Both DDPL and Shortgrass would like to thank all those involved in making this new partnership possible: DDPL Library Board, Duchess Village Council and SLS staff and trustees.



Interior of Duchess and District Public Library