



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Celebrate Alberta Library Week!

October 19 – 25

Alcoma Community Library (Rainier)

Alcoma Library has been very busy over the summer barcoding and entering items on Dynix. With the help of Shortgrass Headquarters staff, namely Eileen, Phyllis, Cindy and many student volunteers we have barcoded over 10,000 items, and have entered probably 1/3 of them. We are now using circulation to some extent, and are now filling orders from other libraries in the System.

The Summer Reading Program, "Reading up a Storm" was a great success with the children, especially the "Mad Scientist" who was enjoyed by all children and parents that attended.

The Library is presently preparing for our "Celebration of New Library Services". An evening is planned on October 8th. In addition to the dignitaries who are invited, we are inviting as many past board members as we can track down. A guest reader will also be on hand.

Bassano Memorial Library

After officially joining Shortgrass, the pace turned to hectic. We are getting a lot of new members and their questions keep me hopping. It has been a good way for me to learn as well. The books that are being sent out for holds are increasing weekly as are the ones that we receive each week.

The Shortgrass delivery van won third prize in the Bassano Rodeo Parade.

The official ceremonies for the "Celebration of New Library Services" were held at the Bassano Library on Saturday June 21st with many patrons and visitors' dropping by during the day to see the Library and celebrate the new services now offered as part of a regional library system.

Reading week had approximately 20 youngsters each week; they met their goal of 200 books read. Scientific Steve was a great hit!

The Friends of the Library have been working hard all summer to get ready for the first annual Fall Fling to be held on September 20th--this event is sure to become an annual fundraiser.

Bow Island Municipal Library

"Summer" at the Bow Island Library means reading programs, contests, parades and BBQ's.

Our Summer Reading Program got under way at the beginning of July. The Library saw about 45 children come and go, doing weekly crafts, playing the Weather Trivia board game (did you know that 100 lightning bolts hit the earth every minute!) and of course "Reading up a Storm". At the end of the program the children and their families were treated to a BBQ in the park. We gave out prizes to participants who read the most for their age and to those who were selected from the coloring contest. Overall the reading program was a huge success.

Melanie, our summer STEP student, did an excellent job with the kids and was a huge help in all areas of the library.

This summer also saw the Library hosting its' first "summer" pre-school storytime. We wanted to offer a program for kids who were too young to take part in the reading program. Moms and tots enjoyed the fun stories and took a break from the heat. After Thanksgiving, regular Storytime will begin. "Mother Goose", a program that promotes family literacy, will be part of our fall and winter storytime sessions.

The SLS delivery van was featured in both Burdett and Bow Island parades. We welcome the village of Burdett as a new area in the SLS.

Through out the year the Bow Island Friends of the Library like to promote library use by sponsoring fun draws and events. Their "Family Summer Cooler" draw was a neat way to let the community know about the Library and the Summer Reading Program. The winner received a cooler full of all the trimmings you would need for a great picnic.

The Friends have also given the Library a donation of \$5000 which will go towards the purchase of new Non-fiction books.

The Bow Island Library continues to provide services to our community members of all ages.

Brooks Public Library

Summer is now over, but the fun is not forgotten at the Brooks Public Library as we celebrate the end of an extremely successful summer reading program! With the help of Becci Pierog, our summer program coordinator, kids were encouraged to think of the Library as a place synonymous with fun as well as a fantastic spot to find great books. Due to this enthusiasm the Library received more requests than we were able to accommodate. A total of 120 children registered for the "Read up a Storm" sessions. Becci covered the gamut of weather topics through various experiments, activities and crafts including summer storm mobiles, igloo building, puddle men, and weather vanes. The kids also took part in crabwalk races, water molecule tag, Readers' Theatre, creating sidewalk chalk shadows and writing tall tales.

Did you know? ...That the Shortgrass Library System became incorporated as a regional library system in 1988.

Foremost Municipal Library

We had a busy summer with approximately 102 children registering for the "Read up a Storm" summer program. Our Summer Program Coordinator, Courtney Leffler, did a great job with organizing Craft and Storytimes, and making the game board for the kids to play daily. The program ran from July 2 to August 21. Our summer entertainer, Laser Lance who performed Mad Science, was a huge success and was attended by over 80 children and adults. We also had two "Movie Times", Magic School Bus Kicks up a Storm" and "Jungle Book 2". On August 21 we held our Wind Up party with hotdogs, games, prizes and certificates. Over 50 attended.

From June to August we had an Art display in the library called "Old Yards and Stuff" by Roy Meroniuk. For the month of September, we have an Art display available for viewing called "Doorway To the Past – A Personal Museum" by Grande Prairie artist Marion Morison.

We are presently busy preparing for our annual "Pumpkin Festival and Auction" which will be held on Friday, October 24th. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!

Graham Community Library

The Graham Community Library, Ralston, had a very busy summer. We were so glad to have a summer student for 4 months. He did our inventory and updated the web site as well as regular library duties.

The Summer Day Camps made good use of the library; we had over 120 children playing monoporead.

The internet terminals have been used more than ever due to the large military training exercises. We have had to extend opening hours until the end of October to accommodate the demand.

Our special once a month storytime continues Sunday September 21--approximately 30 to 40 children attend the storytime.

Medicine Hat Public Library

Well, it's been a busy summer! The summer reading program filled up the first half, with enthusiastic Book buddies, weather-related crafts, and hundreds of children playing monoporead. The latter part of the summer saw more teen activities: the Youth Advisory Board participated in the downtown chilli cook-off and nearly sixty teens acted in the numerous murder mystery sessions.

As we move into the fall, we anticipate increased demand for our homebound services as we initiate services to two additional nursing homes. Our Youth Advisory Board continues to grow in strength. A new round of storytimes will start up in late September, and there are a number of adult programs coming up in the next couple of months—check out our website at www.mhpl.info!

**Science & Technology Week
October 10 – 19**

www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca

**Netspeed Conference
October 23-25**

**Edmonton
www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca**

Redcliff Public Library

We had a great summer. Lots of children were here for the Summer Reading Program and really enjoyed themselves. We all thought the Mad Scientist was very good. The town is growing fast so the library has a lot of new members. We've also had many new people coming in to use the internet computers.

We held our annual Book Sale in the Park during Redcliff Days and as always the weather cooperated and we made almost \$900.

Storyhour/crafts for 3 to 6 year olds will soon start. Charge is \$3 for 12 weekly sessions. SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY!!

Rolling Hills Public Library

What has been happening at our library?...This past summer has flown by and that could be due to all the tasks that our volunteers are doing to get ready for our joining the Shortgrass Library System. The "Celebration of New Library Services" will be held on Saturday October 4th.

We acquired a STEP grant to help pay for a summer student who worked in our library from May until the end of August. She was in charge of implementing the Summer Reading Program and did a fine job. We had up to thirty five children a week and comments from participants and parents were very favourable. The "Mad Scientist" was a big hit with both children and parents!

Now, we are busily changing our negative barcodes into positive ones on the Shortgrass database. We are learning so much. Our milestones are: receiving our first book processed by Shortgrass, seeing a book from our collection on the database for the first time, having the delivery van come, and receiving our first request for an interlibrary loan.

A special thanks to the staff at Shortgrass Headquarters for all their help and patience.

Library Facts & Stats 2003

Alberta Library Boards and Services Points

- ✓ 233 library boards responsible for serving Albertans
- ✓ Over 1900 library trustees
- ✓ 310 library services points across Alberta from Acadia to Zama
- ✓ 7 regional library systems serving 225 service points

Source: *Strategic Information and Libraries Branch, Community Development*

*Shortgrass Clippings is published 4 times yearly.
The Shortgrass Library System serves the County of 40 Mile, the County of Newell
(Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 10), Alcoma Community Library (Rainier), Bassano Memorial Library,
Bow Island Municipal Library, Brooks Public Library, Foremost Municipal Library,
Medicine Hat Public Library, Redcliff Public Library, Rolling Hills Public Library and the
Graham Community Library in Ralston*