



Quatrefoil

Parkland Regional Library

Cooperation ■ Innovation ■ Service

Issue 11

Summer 2009

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PRL headquarters June, 2009

Parkland Regional Library commemorates its 50th anniversary in 2009!

In celebration of this milestone, PRL staff have volunteered to enter a float in the Lacombe Days parade on July 18th.

Parkland's anniversary party will take place on October 2nd in conjunction with the PRL library conference – **Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future**. Stay tuned for announcements about local celebrations during the week of October 5th – 10th.

Rochon Sands has requested membership within Parkland Regional Library

The Summer Village of Rochon Sands has made the formal request to join Parkland Regional Library. Located about 15 km. north of Erskine, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands is situated on Buffalo Lake in east central Alberta. In 2006, Rochon Sands had a population of 66. There is no public library in the community. The membership process for municipalities joining a regional library system can be lengthy since it must be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. PRL libraries will be notified as soon as Rochon Sands gains membership. Please make members of this community feel welcome.



From the Director's Desk

Increased Funding for Public Libraries

This spring, the government of Alberta announced an additional \$9,343,000 of ongoing operational funding which has been added to Municipal Affairs' three year budget for public libraries starting in 2009. Of this money approximately \$2,000,000 will be spent on technology programs with the remainder going directly to public libraries.

Per capita grants will be based on 2008 population figures.

Counties/municipalities without library boards

- \$5.40 per capita rural library service grant

Municipalities with populations over 3,000

- Municipality – \$3.43 per capita to trigger the provincial contribution
- Province – \$5.40 per capita operating grant

Municipalities with populations under 3,000

- Municipality – \$2.00 per capita to trigger the provincial contribution
- Province – two levels of base operating grants:
 - Population up to 1,200 – \$6,480
 - Population 1,201 - 3,000 – \$16,200

Regional Library Systems

- \$4.55 per capita

Staff Update

- **Alida Burnard**, formerly of Parkland's Acquisitions Department, replaced **Lisa Tiller** as finance clerk.
- The vacancy created in PRL's Acquisition Department was filled by hiring **Jana-Lee Patton**. Jana-Lee is a former staff member from the Bentley Municipal Library.



- **Kenzie MacAskill** has returned to Parkland for the third summer as part of the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP).
- **Charmaine Beauchesne's** contract at Parkland expired in March.
- **Michael Silver's** contract expired at the end of April. Michael left his position as Network Administrator last summer to pursue a Master of Library and Information Studies degree at the University of Alberta.

New Norway Membership in PRL

The Village of New Norway decided not to join PRL. They will continue to pay the non-resident fee for members of the community who use library service.

Plan of Service Consultation Sessions

PRL held two stakeholder consultation sessions as part of its Plan of Service needs assessment process. One was held in Galahad on April 3rd and one at PRL on April 16th. Both sessions were facilitated by Shari Hanson, a Community Development Officer with Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. A total of 60 stakeholders attended. The sessions were very useful in helping PRL staff determine what services will be provided in upcoming years. At present, staff are in the process of synthesizing the information gathered at the consultation sessions. PRL's new plan of service will cover the years 2010 – 2012.

Funding for Upgrades to PRL's Headquarters

Regional library system headquarters buildings are all aging and require renovations and upgrades. Unfortunately, regional library systems cannot access traditional grants like the Community Facility Enhancement Program or funding through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative program because their incorporation status disqualifies them. Most regional library system funding comes from municipalities that want the regional library requisition to be kept as low as possible. As a result, there is no way for regional systems to generate sufficient revenue to plan for long term building maintenance or building replacement.

The regional library systems were established by the provincial government and had their original buildings constructed through government funding of one type or another. Parkland's most recent renovations were also funded through a provincial initiative.

In March, PRL's Director, Ron Sheppard, wrote to all of the MLA's in the Parkland region requesting that the Government of Alberta set aside some money for upgrades to regional library headquarters. This letter was also sent to Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Checked out The Alberta Library recently?



Under the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network Tab:

- The **Books and Beyond Toolkit** allows libraries to use the campaign materials created to promote Alberta public libraries.
- Use the **Five Minute Guides** for a brief overview of new technology and online tools.
- Are patrons in your community using the **Tell Me More** language learning software? The TAL website has materials to help you promote this service.

Under the Services Tab:

- Find out more about the **VISUNET** partner program and **TAL card** to help patrons get the best service from their library card.
- The **Web Awareness** campaign can be used by libraries to help children and parents make safe decisions online.

Visit TAL's website today at <http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/>



Looking Ahead...



August 5-7	PNLA conference – Missoula, Montana
October 1-31	Canadian Library Month
October 1-2	PRL conference – Lacombe Memorial Centre
October 2	PRL 50th Anniversary Celebrations – Lacombe Memorial Centre
October 5-10	Regional PRL anniversary celebrations
October 21-23	NETSPEED – Calgary

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Parkland Regional Library
5404 56th Ave
Lacombe, Alberta
T4L 1G1
Phone: 403.782.3850
Fax: 403.782.4650
www.prl.ab.ca

Send submissions and comments to Karyn Goodwillie
(kgoodwillie@prl.ab.ca)

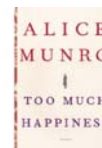
Alice Munro was announced as the winner of the **2009 Man Booker International Prize**. This prize is awarded every two years to a living author for a body of work that has contributed to an achievement in fiction on the world stage. Some of her titles include:



Alice Munro's Best: Selected Stories
9780771065200



Too Much Happiness
9780771065293
(August, 2009)



The View from Castle Rock
9780099513483

<http://www.themanbookerprize.com/news/stories/1226>

2009 Alberta Literary Awards

- Canmore children's author Hazel Hutchins received the **R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature** for her picture book *Mattland*.
- Jaspreet Singh's novel *Chef* received the **Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction**.
- Caterina Edwards received the **Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction** for *Finding Rosa: A Mother with Alzheimer's, a Daughter in Search of the Past*.
- Two-time Governor General Award winner Sharon Pollock was awarded the **Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama** for "Kabloona Talk" from *Sharon Pollock: Collected Works Volume Three*.
- Edmonton's Lisa Martin-DeMoor won the **Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry** for her first collection of poetry, *One Crow Sorrow*.
- The winner of the inaugural **Amber Bowerman Memorial Travel Writing Award** went to Leah Bailly for "Long Views Across Nothing."
- Barb Howard from Bragg Creek was the recipient of the **Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story** for "Mrs. Goodfellow's Dog," published in *Grain* magazine.



Consultants' Corner

The online world keeps expanding to include more ways for people to connect with each other at such a fast rate that it's hard to keep up. Are there any tools out there that help you to stay on top of all that information? RSS is one solution that may be useful for you.

RSS


Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is a method of distributing content from websites that are regularly updated, such as news, blogs, and forums. This way, instead of going to different websites to find out if they've been updated, you only need to go to one place, where new information is delivered to you. Think of it as getting a magazine subscription rather than looking for each issue in the store.

There are two parts to getting started:

Setting up an RSS reader

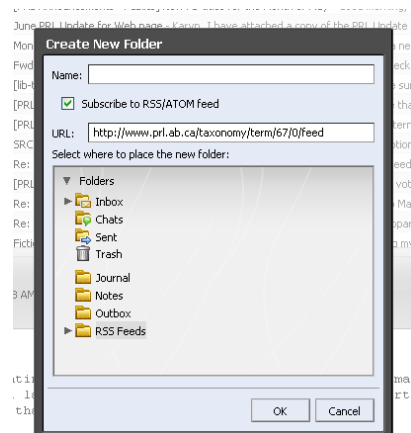
The first step is to set up the site receiving the information. Zimbra and Outlook both have built-in feed readers, as do most web browsers. There are also many free commercial readers available online that provide a more complex interface, such as Google Reader (www.google.com/reader) or Bloglines (<http://bloglines.com>).

Subscribing to RSS feeds

- 1) Go to the webpage from which you want to receive updates. There should be an orange  that signifies there is an RSS feed available for this page. Alternatively, look for a link using the word 'subscribe.' Clicking on the icon or link moves your browser to the feed page. Copy the page's URL address at the top of the browser. For example, the feed for the PRL general discussion forum is <http://www.prl.ab.ca/taxonomy/term/67/0/feed>.
- 2) Go to the feed reader you are using and look for 'add feed' or 'add folder.' Paste the URL into the 'add' field. The feed reader will then start to check that address for new information regularly (Zimbra does this every morning).

For more information:

http://www.commoncraft.com/rss_plain_english
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_\(file_format\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_(file_format))
<http://www.probloggger.net/what-is-rss/>
<http://www.sixapart.com/about/feeds>
<http://www.mnot.net/rss/tutorial/>



Adding a feed in Zimbra

Staff Recognized by Parkland Board

At the May 14 PRL Board meeting, five staff members received recognition for their long-term service.



Margo Vandaele - Library Clerk, Cataloguing Department
(10 years of service)

Debby Sutherland - Library Clerk, Acquisitions Department
(10 years of service)



Michael Silver - Information Technology Department
(10 years of service)

Tim Spark - Network Administrator
(5 years of service)



Susan Grieshaber-Otto - Manager of Consulting Services
(5 years of service)



Internet Explorer 8

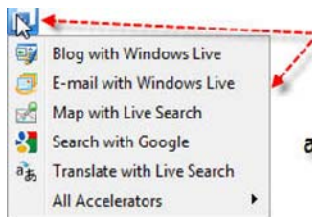
Internet Explorer 8 (IE8) is now available, so your computers will most likely be downloading this new Internet Explorer browser. Although similar to Internet Explorer 7, there are some changes!

- **Standardization of coding in the browser:** Many internet sites are coded to work with older versions of IE. There is a 'compatibility' icon beside the address bar to use if items do not display properly in IE8.



compatibility icon

- **Suggested Sites:** Find new websites that are interesting and relevant based on previous searches.
- **Search suggestions:** The IE8 Search box will suggest alternative searches in a pop up list.
- **Favourites:** Typing in the address bar will bring up a list of favourites by that name.
- **InPrivate Browsing:** Choose to browse 'in private' and your browsing history (visited sites) will not be stored. Use the new 'Safety' menu and choose InPrivate Browsing, opening a new window. When that window is closed, the private session is over.



Blue arrow & menu

- **Accelerators:** Highlight an area of text or an image on a webpage, and a blue arrow will appear either to search for the term elsewhere or to send information to a service, such as a blog, e-mail or translation service.
- **Web slices:** Connect to a website by subscribing to content directly within a page on that site. Web slices are visible on a webpage and act like RSS feeds: you can subscribe to them and receive their updated information. A small green & white icon will appear if a web slice is available for that webpage.
- **Favorites bar:** There is now a Favorites bar to which you can add clickable, easily visible links by dragging the icon from the URL to the bar.



- **Tab Groups:** Gather tabs originating from the same webpage into colored groups. Right click on a link on the webpage, choose 'open in new tab.' The new tab and your original tab are now the same color.

For these and more features, check out the Internet Explorer 8 Readiness features at:
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/readiness/new-features.aspx>

Notes From the Field



Spring into Reading in Forestburg

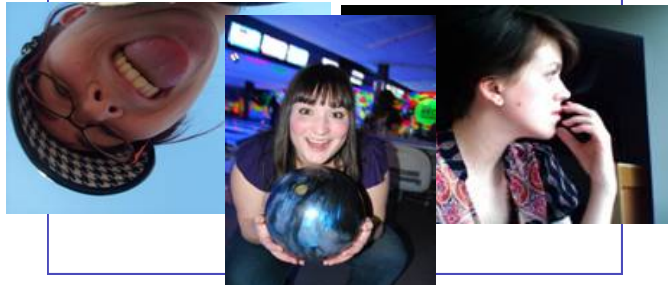
Early in 2009, **Battle River Community Foundation** in Camrose granted Forestburg Public Library \$1,500 to use for year round reading programs. "Spring into Reading" was created in February and will run until the end of May. **After School Fun** brought out the Grades 1- 3 and Grades 4 - 6 kids twice a month for each age group. For the younger ones, **Rhymes That Bind Reunion** and **Preschool Story Time** ran on alternate weeks. **Mother Goose on the Loose** was the baby and toddler program held in May.

With operational funding for libraries always in short supply this grant was much appreciated.

New Staff at Stettler

Stettler Public Library is pleased to welcome our summer students. Sarah Gregory is back for another year of running our Summer Reading Program. Sarah is joined by Stephanie McComb. Bringing talent and enthusiasm, these two women hope to run a fantastic program this summer, expanding it to serve kids age 1 to 18.

Also on board for the summer is Lisa Weaver. Lisa was part of the SRP last summer, but is back this summer as a circulation clerk. Along with her circulation duties, she will be weeding our collection and (hopefully) painting the entire library.



Delburne Renovation

Delburne Public Library celebrated the grand opening of their library expansion on Saturday, June 20th. Board Chair, John Perry, commended the efforts of the Library Board, the Friends of the Library, and library staff who have worked hard over the past three years to successfully bring this project to fruition. Several

dignitaries, including the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation and MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, joined excited community members, Board members, Friends, and staff for the festivities which included free cake for all, a Friends fundraising barbeque and a library yard sale.



Agent 009 @ Your Library!

This summer, children in Parkland and all across Canada will be honing their detective skills as they participate in the Summer Reading Club. With this year's theme, **Agent 009**, children will have a blast searching for clues, solving mysteries, and sleuthing out some good books.

There are great mystery books for all ages. Some great picture books to consider include:



Tuff Fluff: The Case of Duckie's Missing Brain- Scott Nash
Detective Small in the Amazing Banana Caper- Wong Herbert Yee
Mystery at the Club Sandwich- Doug Cushman
Agent A to Agent Z- Andy Rash



This is a great chance to introduce older readers to some of the numerous mystery chapter books series. Besides classics like the *Hardy Boys*, *Nancy Drew*, and *Encyclopedia Brown*, children will surely enjoy some new favourites like *Geronimo Stilton*, the *Chet Gekko* series by Bruce Hale, and *Shredderman* by Wendelin Van Draanen.



PRL Children's Programming Boxes = Summer Fun!

PRL has created Children's Programming Boxes that can be used in your Summer Reading Club programming. Some boxes to consider this summer include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| ☞ Archeology | ☞ Ladybugs | ☞ Imagination |
| ☞ Art Thief | ☞ Mysteries and Illusions | ☞ Whodunit? |
| ☞ At the Beach | ☞ Pet Detective | ☞ Creepy Bugs |
| ☞ Caterpillars/ Butterflies | ☞ Summer | |

To book a box for your library, contact direct.services@prl.ab.ca. Please be sure to return boxes on time- this is a very busy time for the Children's Programming Boxes. The next library will thank you!



Read All About It!

Beginning June 15, teens can sign up for an account and start contributing to the website (<http://www.teensrc.ca/>) by writing reviews, attending chat sessions with authors, and participating in book discussions in the forums. Participating is completely free.

Library Staff can go to <http://teenrc.bclibrary.ca/> for more information on how they can help teens get involved.



Exploring NoveList's Features



NoveList® is a powerful online resource for ensuring that readers find the books that will keep them coming back to the library. *NoveList* is a unique online database with over **159,000 fiction titles**, in addition to specialized content such as Read-alikes for popular authors, book discussion guides, award lists, and more. They have even included tools to make your job easier – such as genre outlines, readers' advisory (RA) training, book lists, newsletters, and much, much more!

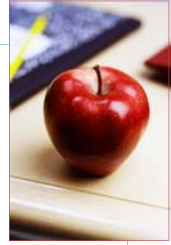
Here's a snapshot of what's included in *NoveList*:

- 159,000 fiction titles (including Adults, Teens, Older Kids and Younger Kids titles).
- 36,000+ subject headings.
- Full-text, searchable reviews from authoritative sources including *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*.
- Series information in reading order.
- Access to *RA News*, Genre Outlines, and RA articles and training

Additional content features:

- Author read-alikes for popular authors provide a one-stop solution to the most frequently asked readers' advisory questions (Who do I read while I wait for my favourite author's new book?).
- Book Discussion Guides provide everything you need to ensure lively book club meetings.
- Over 400 annotated book lists (Recommended Reads) on high-interest topics. These are a great resource to use as patron handouts or to feature on the library's website or newsletter.
- Time-saving tools, such as folders for saving searches, "alerts" for new information, and newsletters geared toward your area of interest.
- Tools (bookmark templates, for one) allowing you to highlight different areas of your collection.

Get started right away by taking a tour of *NoveList*. Just click on the **Tour NoveList** link located on the right-hand side of the *NoveList* homepage in the 'My NoveList' section. A short video will show you how to navigate in *NoveList*. Or browse the online Help pages and other materials to get you started. Soon, you'll be using all of the great content that *NoveList* has to offer!



Teens Evaluate Booktalks

Ruth Cox Clark, in an article in the February, 2009 issue of VOYA (*Voice of Youth Advocates*) shared the results of a study done on teens' reactions to different types of booktalks. 2,922 teenagers across the United States filled out an anonymous questionnaire for 160 booktalkers. What did they find?

- 35% of the teens had heard a booktalk previously.
- 92% said that they enjoyed the session they were evaluating. More girls said yes than boys.
- 84% would like to hear more booktalks in the future. Once again, significantly more girls than boys said yes.

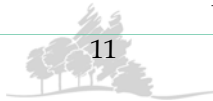
Cox Clark attributes the gender differences to the types of books that were presented. Most of the booktalkers were female and most chose YA fiction rather than graphic novels and nonfiction, which might have held more interest for the boys.

Three different types of booktalks were presented:

- Discussion style: the booktalker introduces the book, then the teens discuss it.
- First person: the booktalker prepares a monologue written from the point of view of one of the characters in the book.
- Excerpt: an excerpt of the book is read.

Overall, teens preferred the first person booktalks the most (42%), followed by excerpts (32%), and discussion booktalks (27%). When asked to choose their least favourite style of booktalk, most teens rated discussion booktalks (44%) lower than book excerpts (30%), or first person booktalks (26%).

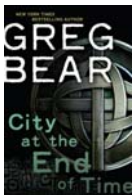
- Most booktalkers feel nervous about presenting a first person monologue, but they can have the greatest effect.
- Book excerpts are a safe choice. They are easy to prepare and teens generally like them. Try to choose short, snappy sections of the book that will grab teens' interest without revealing too much.
- Teens prefer shorter booktalks that act in the same way a movie trailer does: hint at the plot rather than tell it.
- Many of the teens' comments mentioned that they don't have time to browse library shelves, so hearing booktalks meant learning about books they wouldn't otherwise have found.
- Booktalkers need to consider the gender of the people they are presenting to: both in choosing materials and choosing characters for first person booktalks. Don't choose the books you enjoy, choose books that will grab teens' interest. Look for graphic novels and nonfiction books to round out the appeal of the session for different types of readers. Try doing a first person booktalk from a male character's perspective.





New Science Fiction

Book Bites



City at the End of Time
Greg Bear
9780345448408



Divisions
Ken MacLeod
9780765321190



The Hunger Games
Suzanne Collins
9780439023481



Cyberbad Days
Ian McDonald
9781591002697



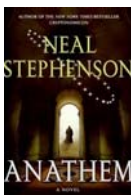
Reap the Wild Wind
Julie E. Czerneda
9780756404871



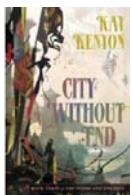
Zoe's Tale
John Scalzi
9780765356192



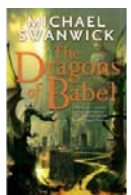
Gears of the City
Felix Gilman
9780553806779



Anathem
Neal Stephenson
9780061474095



City Without End
Kay Kenyon
9781591026983



The Dragons of Babel
Michael Swanwick
9780765359138