

CAMPING AT THE LIBRARY



Parents and kids set up camp at the Fort St. John Public Library for a night of singing, playing and camping. *FEB 16, 2015* DAVID DYCK PHOTOS



Photo Credit

Bronwyn Scott

Left: Lydia Prosko, 5, and Josh
Coenders, 7, play with a train set
at the Fort St. John library on Sat.,
Jan 25. 2015



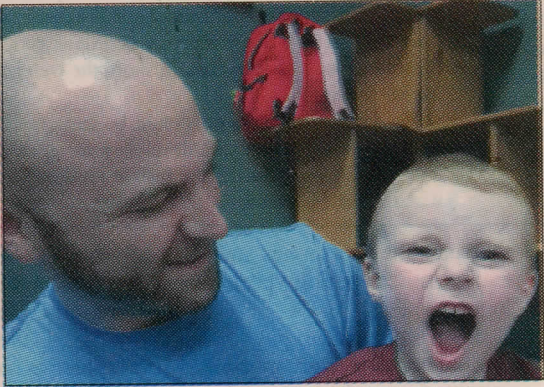
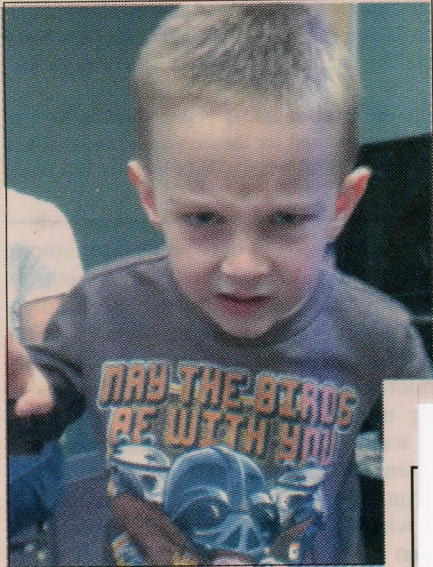
DAVID DYCK PHOTO
Parents and kids set up camp at the Fort St. John
Public Library for a night of singing, playing and camping.
FEB 20, 2015

MAY 1, 2015



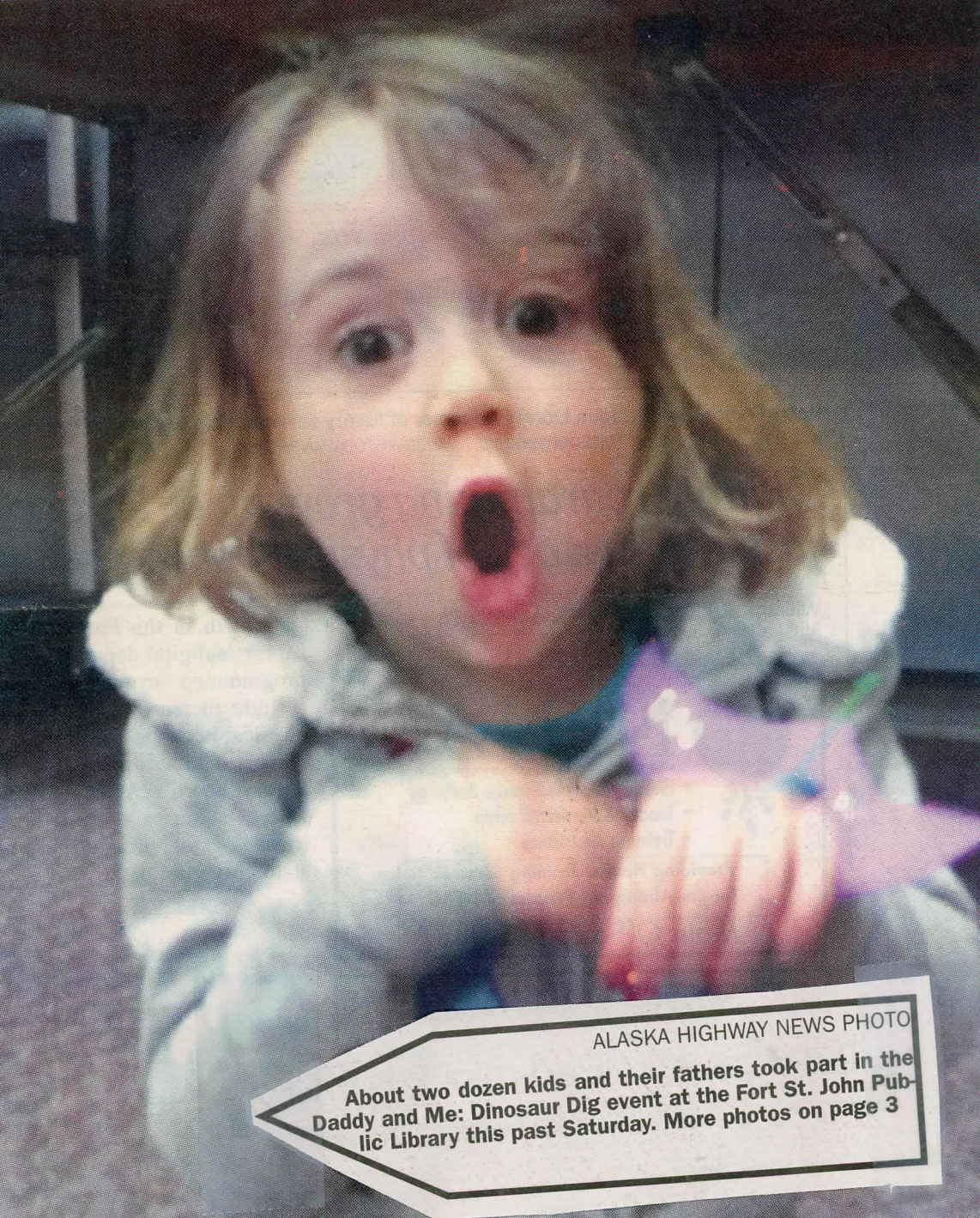
A good day for a dinosaur hunt

About two dozen kids and their fathers took part in Saturday's Daddy and Me: Dinosaur Dig event at the Fort St. John Public Library. Kids from two to six years old took part in games, crafts, a fossil-hunt and other adventures.



ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS PHOTOS

Above Left: Bentley Hunt, 5, makes his best scary dinosaur face at Saturday's Daddy and Me: Dinosaur Dig. Above Right: Cain McDonald, 4, tries to scare a reporter with his T-rex impersonation.



ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS PHOTO

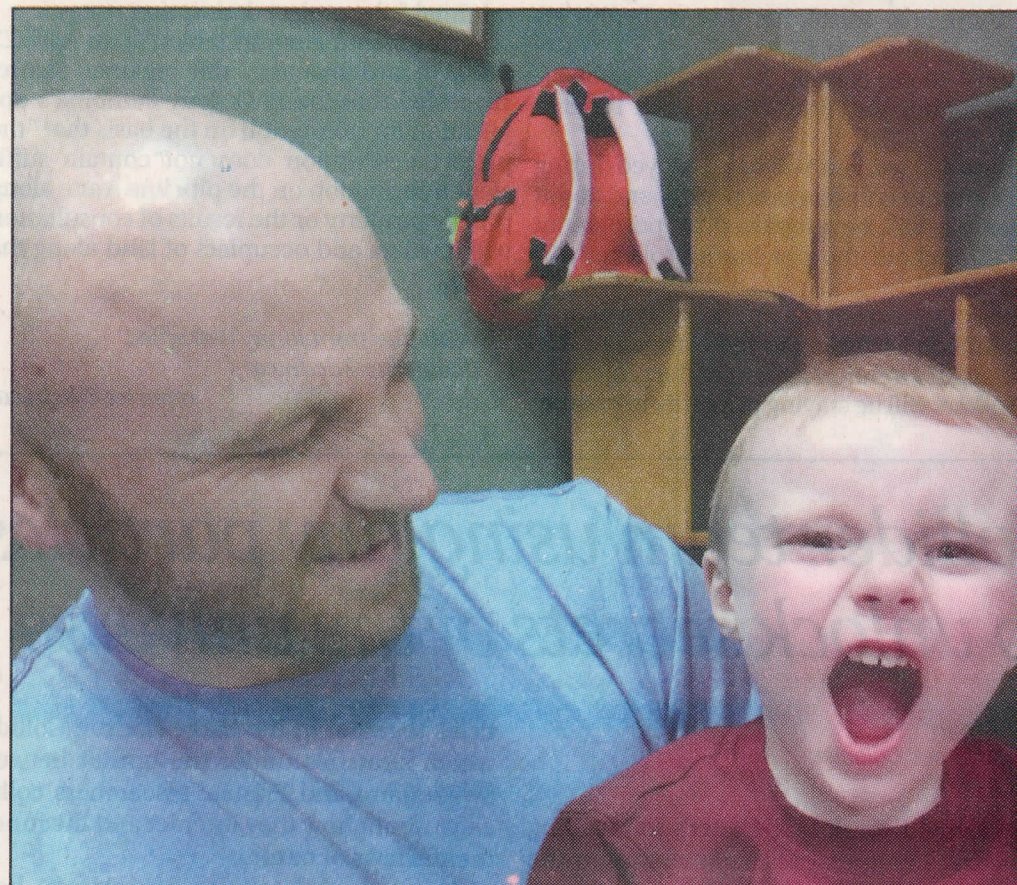
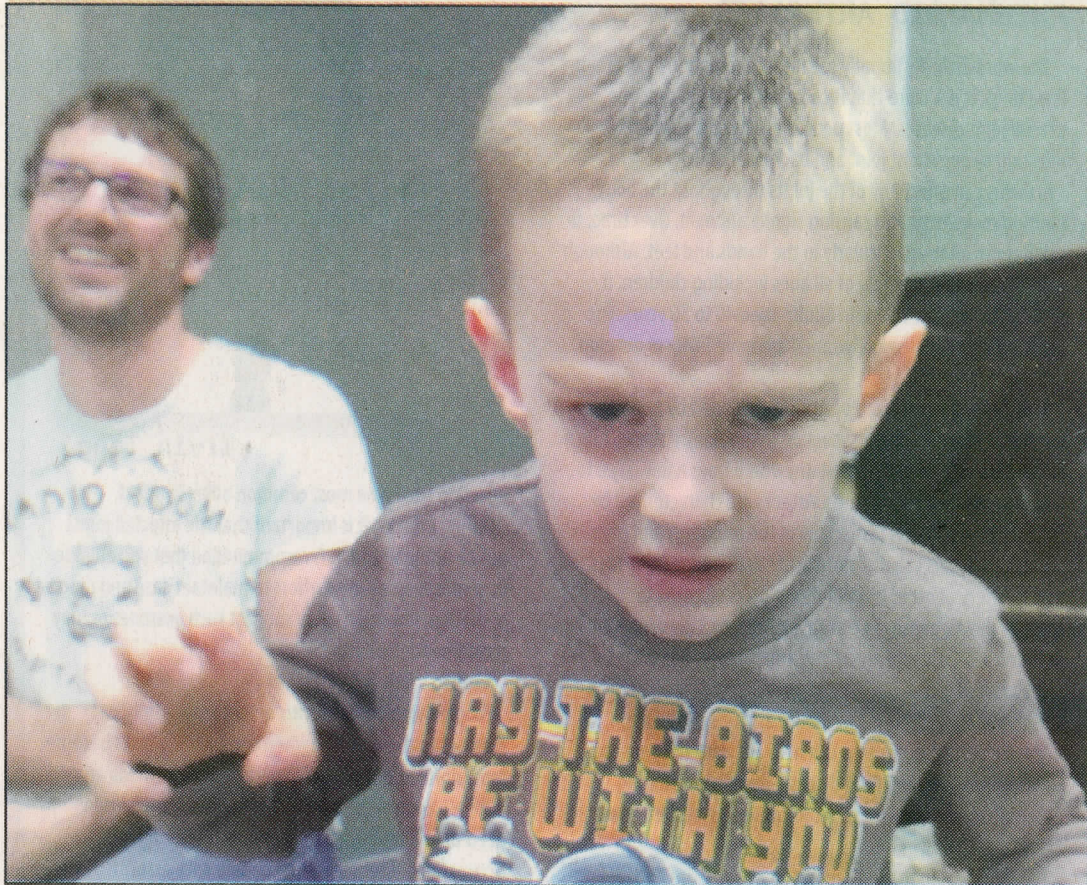
About two dozen kids and their fathers took part in the Daddy and Me: Dinosaur Dig event at the Fort St. John Public Library this past Saturday. More photos on page 3

- TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

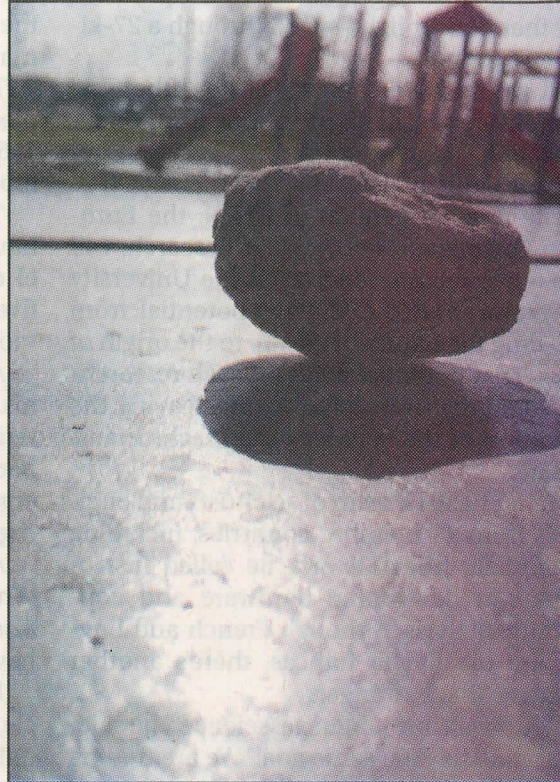
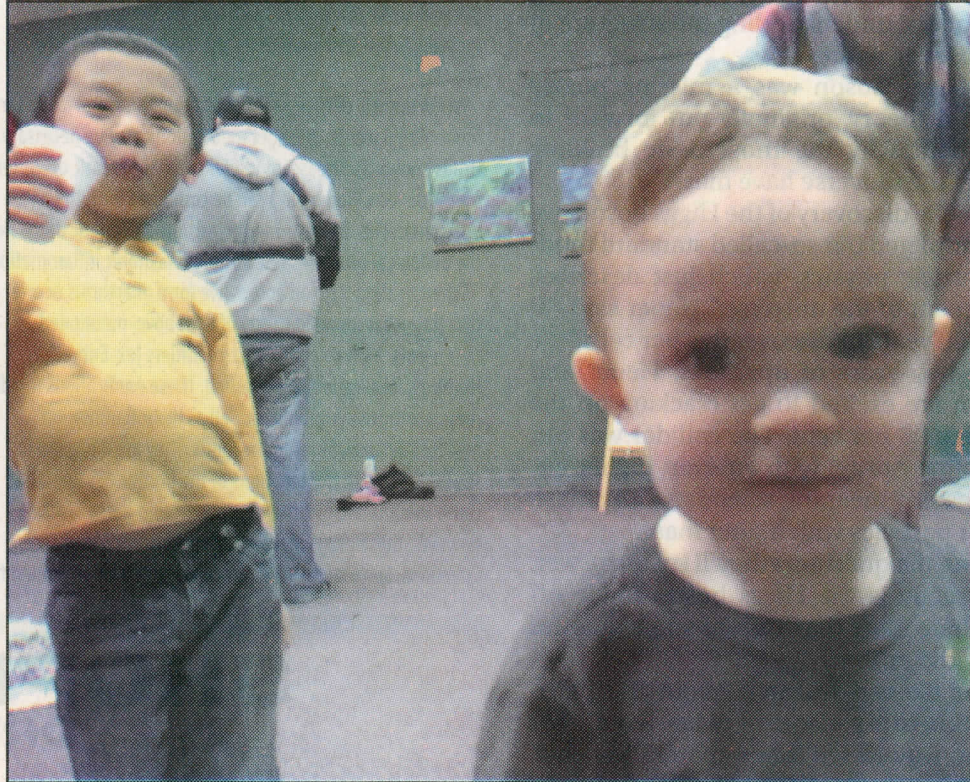


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Left: Bentley Hunt, 5, makes his best scary dinosaur face at Saturday's Daddy and Me: Dinosaur Dig. Right: Cain McDonald, 4, tries to scare a reporter with his T-rex impersonation.



ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS PHOTO

About two dozen kids and their fathers took part in the Daddy and Me: Dinosaur Dig event at the Fort St. John Public Library on Saturday. Right: A real dinosaur egg.

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LOCAL NEWS



Kerry France, Fort St. John Library's director of library services, said use of public computers use was growing "phenomenally." WILLIAM STODALKA PHOTO

Library keeping up with the times

Digital programming growing at library faster than stock of physical books

William Stodalka
Alaska Highway News

Growth in the Fort St. John Library's digital department and programmed events outpaced a slight increase in its stock of physical books last year.

That data was released at the library board's AGM recently, where about a dozen board trustees gathered to discuss the state of the library.

Figures released there showed that the physical book circulation was up only three per cent in 2014 compared to 2013. Last year about 108,000 books were circulated, and

about 30 per cent of those were children's books.

Total active cardholders decreased slightly, from around 6,600 in 2013 to about 6,500 in 2014 — a fall of about two per cent.

Digital materials, on the other hand, grew from about 12,100 in 2013 to 14,500 in 2014, an increase of about 20 per cent.

Ease of access and a new website might have played a role.

Kerry France, director of library services, said that the digital collection was "available to [library users], night or day, free of charge" from 2013.

France said that the use of public com-

puters was growing "phenomenally."

In 2013, there were about 8,600 visits to the public computers at the library, while in 2014, that number was around 13,900.

At the meeting, attendees remarked that new immigrants and job seekers helped push up those numbers.

Attendance for the library's programs was also up, and has grown by leaps and bounds. In 2012, about 1,400 people attended library events, while in 2014 that quadrupled to 5,800.

There is some concern in the community that the province will put the squeeze on the city with Fair Share funding, which could lead to Fort St. John being less

generous when it comes to the library's finances.

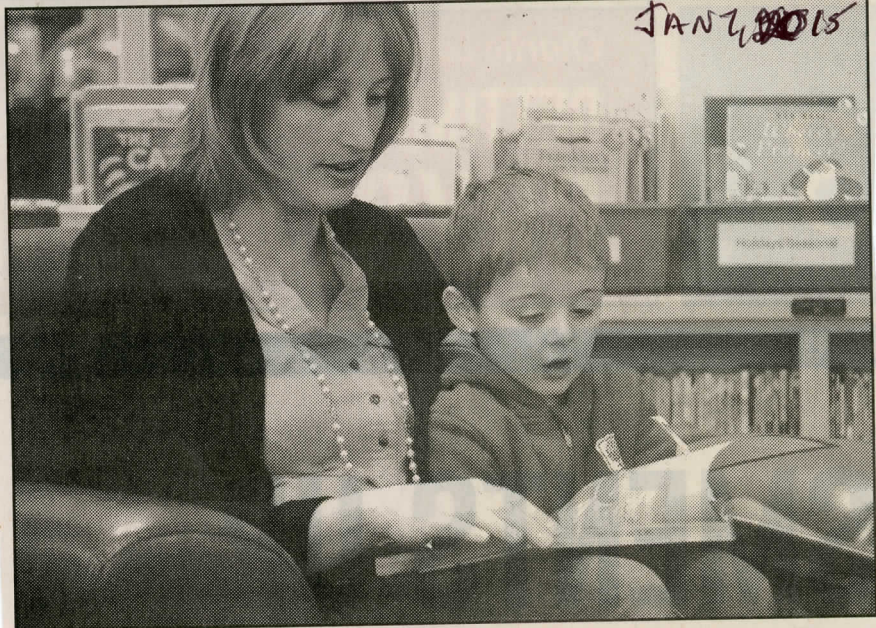
Currently the library relies on the City of Fort St. John for about 51 per cent of its funding.

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development is currently locked in negotiations with northern municipalities for a new Fair Share agreement.

L.J. Lawson, the Fort St. John Public Library Association chairwoman, questioned whether the city would feel as "generous" as they had in the past given the state of Fair Share negotiations.

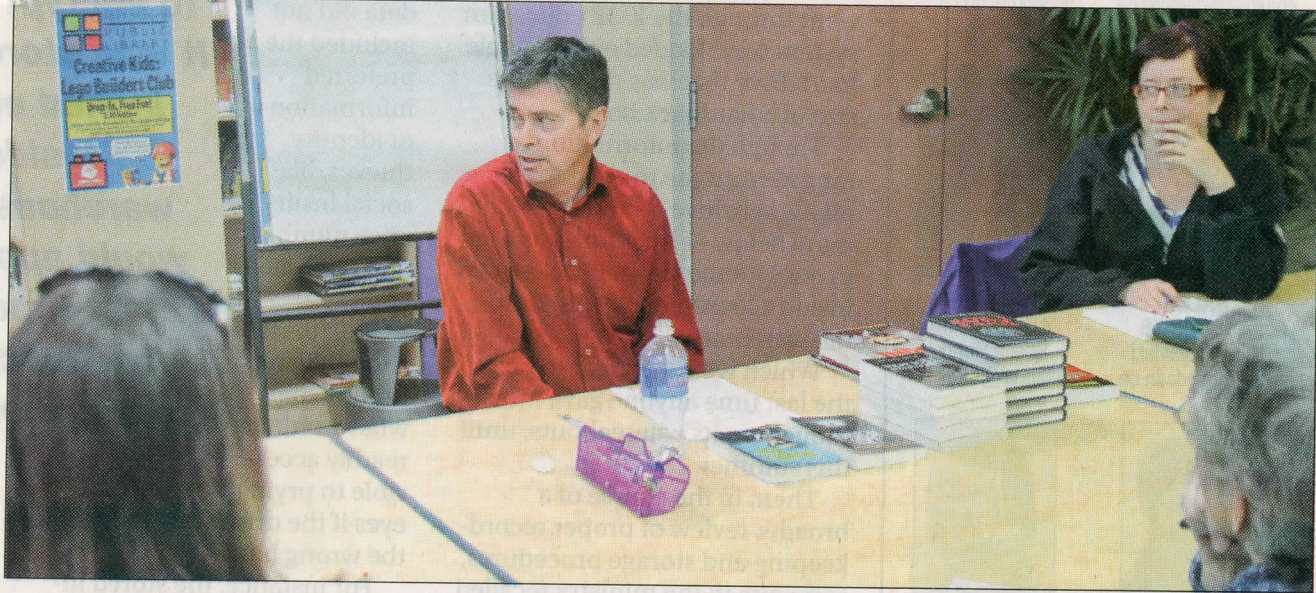
reporter@ahnfsj.ca

FORT ST. JOHN



DAVID DYCK PHOTO

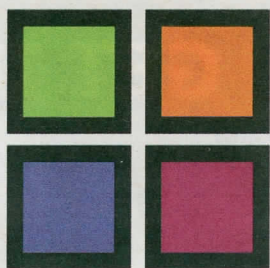
Allison Finter reading a book about superheroes to her 4-year-old son Aiden at the Fort St. John Public Library on Tuesday morning. Aiden has read most of the superhero comics already, but this particular volume was a first.



WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW: Young adult author Shane Peacock offered a workshop to aspiring young adult fiction writers at the Fort St. John Library on Tuesday night.

SEPT 24, 2015

WILLIAM STODALKA PHOTO



FORT ST JOHN

PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Pssst!

FSJPL is celebrating
Family Literacy Week
Jan 24th - 31st

Drop-in,
hands-on fun
with

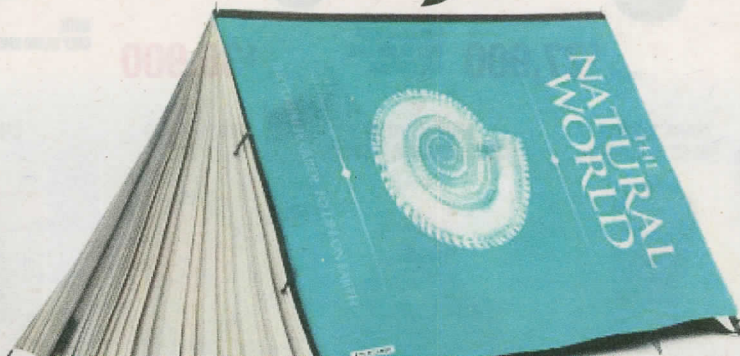


10am-1pm
Jan 24

**Family
Camp-In**
Jan 31st - Feb 1st

Set up a tent and
spend the night in
the Library!
Register now!

Used Book Sale
10am-2pm
Jan 31



FSJ Library starts new peer group for LGBTQ youth

William Stodalka
Alaska Highway News

The Fort St. John Public Library is kickstarting a new group to provide a safe spot for gay and lesbian youth in the city.

The group was set to hold its first meeting Thursday evening, for gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender, and queer teens in Grades 7 through 12 to meet and hang out.

Library director Kerry France said her organization is looking for gaps in service, and this “really stood out for us.”

“We know that the support in high school only reaches those in high schools,” she said.

“There are youth who are perhaps home schooled, rural children, youths who are no longer in school. We do know that bullying is a big problem, and we have been approached by several parents who have become frustrated with not being able to find support for their children.”

The group will meet the first Thursday of every month, or more if the interest is there, France said.

“We provide a safe place... a place for these kids to gather and be surrounded by others who have similar life experiences,” said France.

reporter@ahnfsj.ca



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

LEGO BLOCK ARCHITECTS: Tristan Balfour, 7, looks up from his Lego creation on Thursday afternoon to smile for a photo. Beside him, Sophia Baker, 4, builds her own Lego structure. Balfour and Baker are part of the Lego Builders Club at the Fort St. John Public Library.

Oct 5, 2015

LOCAL NEWS

Fort St. John library banks on added support from the city

Bronwyn Scott
Alaska Highway News

The gallery seats in the Fort St. John council chambers were filled with community members holding small, colourful flags in support of the Fort St. John Public Library's request for funding on Monday.

Kerry France, library director, and L.J. Lawson, board chair, asked council for \$400,000 in their base budget grant request, which is \$20,000 more than they're typically funded.

"The library has been running with the same level of staffing, the same number of employees the same number of hours, for at least the last decade, and that is not considering the fact that the population has continued to grow," Lawson told council.

"We are also in the same space that we have been in from being a much smaller community to where we are now... we are the smallest per capita library in the province in visible space."

The library's limited space



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

L.J. Lawson, library board chair, and Kerry France, library director, were in council on Monday to request an additional \$20,000 over their usual \$380,000 in order to meet the needs of a growing community.

lic computers, the library saw a 62 per cent increase in usage in 2014. By increasing its programming schedule by 29 per cent, library

community. It attracts people to the downtown area, helping to energize surrounding businesses," France said.



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

Sue Shem and her daughter Graycen Miyazaki are hopeful that Fort St. John council will grant the library's request for \$20,000 additional funding this year.

able to use the library as they intend to. For instance, someone seeking quiet study time may be unable to concentrate if they're next to a children's activity, Lawson said.

"And when we're running children's activities, we want children to be children, and experience the library in their own way."

Other patrons like to use library seating as a second living room. Still more come to use the public computers, or to attend programmed events.

"Our two areas of highest growth were programming attendance and public computer use," said France.

By improving software on pub-

in attendance.

In-person library visits increased by 10 per cent in 2014 and digital circulation increased by 20 per cent. The number of active cardholders decreased slightly, by two per cent.

However, having an active library card isn't an accurate measure of how people in the community are using the library, France said, as library membership cards aren't required to use the public computers or to attend programs.

"(The library) strengthens our sense of community, it creates human connections, reduces isolation, contributes to quality of life, it provides free activities and self directed learning to all ages of the

library, compared to others in the province, doesn't have much regional or municipal support. The library says it's the third lowest local government-funded public library in the province on a per capita basis, out of 71 B.C. public library systems.

Coun. Gord Klassen responded to the request saying that the city has limited resources because the industrial tax base is located outside of the city boundaries, and that in addition to supporting the library, the city also provides funding to the North Peace Cultural Centre, which houses the library.

"Just so people understand, there is not (a) direct (benefit) to you as the library, but there is a

benefit I guess to you indirectly," he said.

Acting Mayor Byron Stewart chimed in on the conversation: "Funding, it's a challenge... we would love to have an endless pot (of money), everybody would love to have that."

At the close of France and Lawson's presentation, the gallery erupted in applause in support of the library's request before filtering out of the room.

Regular library users Sue Shem and her daughter Graycen Miyazaki are hopeful council will grant the request.

They use "all their after school programs and summer programs, we do usually the summer reading

as well," Shem said.

Kristina Cavallari, who recently moved to Fort St. John from St. Louis, Missouri, was also in attendance. She says the library has helped her family feel part of the community.

"Me and my son love going to the library, it's something we do almost every single day actually... it's just a place to meet other mothers and other children, and just to feel more a part of the community, as newcomers," she told the Alaska Highway News.

Council will make its funding decisions at a future council meeting.

peacereporter@ahnfsj.ca

Oct 23, 2015

Making Little Monsters



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTOS

MAKING LITTLE MONSTERS: The Fort St. John Public Library held its first Ugly Crafts night on Thursday, which encourages adults to let go of their insecurities and just make something fun, no matter how ugly it may turn out. The next Ugly Craft night will be on Nov. 19.



NOV 1, 2016

WILLIAM STODALKA PHOTO

A FAIR TRADE-OFF: From Nov. 1 to Nov. 30, the Fort St. John Public Library is accepting charitable donations of non-perishable food items in lieu of late fees. The donated food will go to the Fort St. John Women's Resource Centre. Above, circulation clerk Amy von Stackelberg poses in the box the library hopes to fill with donations on Tuesday.