

# CHECK IT OUT

What's on and new at Carstairs Public Library

## Highlights

- Spring Classes and Events
- Letter from our Library Manager
- Library News
- Book Recommendations



Get started gardening using our *Seed Library*

We offer small packages of **herbs**, **flowers**, and **plants** to get your garden started!



*Now Available*



## Welcome

Spring is just starting to tease us with the promise of warmer weather and spring flowers. We are excited for all the fun classes and events we have planned for the next few months.

We are also very excited to launch our Seed Library. You can come take some packages of seeds to help start your garden this year. We mainly have vegetable seeds but there is a small selection of flowers and herbs as well. If you plant your garden and have seed leftover you can donate the extra seed to our seed library as well. The seed library will be available until late September and then will hibernate for winter.

## NEW BOOK



### **Her Hidden Genius** by Marie Benedict

Marie Benedict's powerful new novel shines a light on a woman who sacrificed her life to discover the nature of our very DNA, a woman whose world-changing contributions were hidden by the men around her but whose relentless drive advanced our understanding of humankind.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**We don't charge late fees for books returned late. We only charge for damaged and lost items.**

**If you see late fines on your card let us know because it means we forgot to waive them.**

# Many Thanks

This last six months I've had a singular honour to lead the Queen Elizabeth the II Platinum Jubilee Medal committee for the Library Association of Alberta. We were asked by the province to choose 10 nominees to be awarded these medals from the library community. As a librarian early in my career it was a unique opportunity to get to see and learn from people across the library field who have had big impacts on libraries. These nominees came from all education levels and all types of libraries but the one thing that stood out was that they were nominated for and had huge impact not because of their 9-5 work but because of the volunteer contributions they made to the field outside of their work. These volunteer hours lead them to have huge impacts on their communities and opened doors for them to work on passion projects and make lasting contributions to the field of librarianship.



As I reflected on this I wanted to dedicate this newsletter to highlighting the many volunteers who have and continue to work tirelessly to make our library great. I also have a plea it has become increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers for us and for other community groups. If you are able I would encourage all of you to reach out to community groups that overlap with your interests and passions and consider volunteering with them in some way. Something many people don't know about me is I volunteer as 2nd Vice President on the Library Association of Alberta, I serve on the Board for the Mountain Views Communities Adult Learning Association and I've been working on the website of the Friends of Alberta Junior Hockey Society. I am a committed volunteer and enjoy using my knowledge, skills and experience to give back.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find stories about our many library volunteers and I hope to make visible the often invisible work our many volunteers have contributed to our library and our success as a community hub. To our current and our past volunteers I sadly don't have fancy medals to give you but I offer you my deepest and most sincere gratitude. You have built and continue to build a library that shines as an example of what's possible when community members all work together to make their community better.

Thank you

*Megan Gunther*

Manager | MLIS  
Carstairs Public Library



# ANNUAL REPORT

## CARSTAIRS PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022

★ **359** ★ **49** ★

CLASSES OFFERED

2,823 people attended our classes this year

EVENTS ATTENDED

We met 2,350 people at community events

## WHAT WE OFFER



### Access to Books & More

We circulated 54,368 items and have 1,424 library members. We welcomed 70 newcomers to Carstairs.



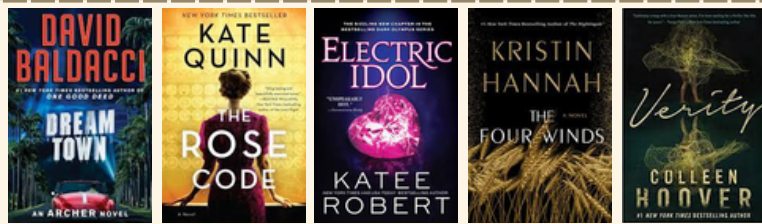
### Knowledgeable Staff

Our staff worked 7,018 hours and our volunteers worked 355 hours. We added a new Adult Program Coordinator position this year.

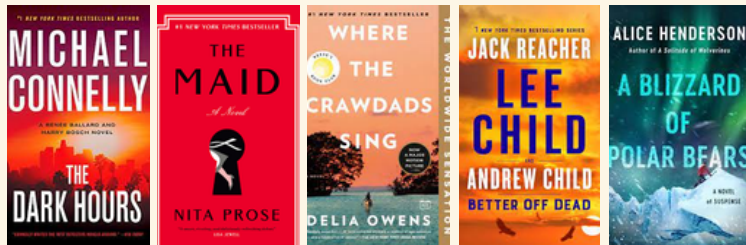


### Help When You Need It

We answered 6,864 questions. In addition we offer technology help, print services and exam proctoring.



## TOP 10 BOOKS FOR ADULTS



**15,241**

People visited the library



**24,760**

People visited our website

## Thank you

to all our library patrons, visitors, volunteers and staff who made **2022** an amazing year!



**We have 17,767 items**  
(books, dvds, audiobooks)

We access additional items and digital resources through Parkland Regional Libraries.

## OPEN MORE

We increased our open hours so we were open **2,244** hours this year.



Sunday & Monday: Closed

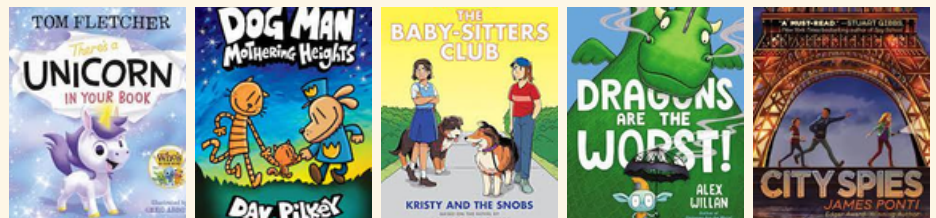
Tuesday: 9am-6pm

Wednesday: 9am-8pm

Thursday 9am-8pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 9am-5pm



## TOP 10 BOOKS FOR KIDS & TEENS



# Library Board

**WE  
NEED  
YOU**



2022 was a very busy year at the library and behind the scenes our library board has been hard at work putting in place the guiding documents, policies and supports that are needed to help steer our library into 2023. The result is the excellent service you see everyday as staff are free to focus on taking care of you our library patrons.

Every member of our library board is a volunteer who dedicates a few hours a month to reviewing documents, making suggestions and advising our library manager.

Our library board meets 9 times a year. We aim to have a group of 6-8 board members to spread the workload out and ensure diverse voices and viewpoints are represented. We are currently looking for 3 new board members. If you are interested you can speak to our library manager Megan or attend a meeting as a guest to see if this position would be a good fit for you. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm and you can join in person or via Zoom.

## Why Volunteer?



*Library  
Board*

Volunteering with the library board is a great way to build your resume. You gain experience with budgets, governance, management and long range planning. It only takes 3-4 hours a month to make a difference and help our library grow.



### **Even Superheroes Get Scared** by Shelly Becker

Even superheroes get scared sometimes. When that happens, do they run and hide? NO! They acknowledge the feeling, then choose to be brave! There are villains to fight and cities to save! Young readers can follow the superheroes' examples and take deep breaths, ask for help, and face new challenges.



### **Party Time, Crabby!** by Jonathan Fenske

It's just another day in the ocean for Crabby and Plankton -- until Plankton decides it's PARTY TIME! Crabby does not want to go to a party. In four hilarious stories, Crabby uses funny wordplay to distract Plankton from putting a party together..



### **Princess Pistachio and Maurice the Magnificent** by Marie-Louise Gay

When Pistachio's dog earns a starring role in a play, she can't talk about anything else for months. But the fame and fun cause trouble when Pistachio's best friend Madeline starts to feel left out.



# BOOKS TO TALK ABOUT BOOK CLUBS



Join a conversation  
full of interesting  
perspectives...  
...there's something  
here for everyone!

3rd Wednesday  
each month  
2pm or 7pm

Contact the library for  
more information.

## WANTED D&D5E ADVENTURERS ADULT PROGRAM DROP IN



2:00 PM

THE 22ND OF APRIL

### ADULT DROP IN PROGRAM

## BOARDS AND DECKS

Connect and compete in a casual setting. Library staff will be bringing games from their personal collections to add to the fray. Bring your own game or try a new one!

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM



## Spring for adults

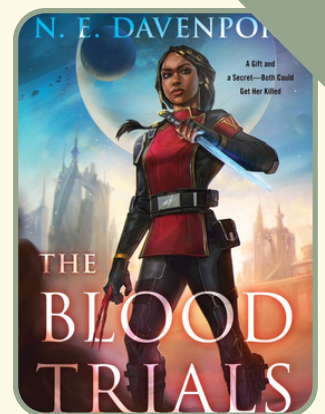
Our book clubs have some great books planned for this spring and are always accepting new members. Boards and Decks has a solid group each month and due to popular request will be adding a special Saturday session focused on D&D for Adults. If you are wanting to learn some new skills Level Up your Life has some interesting topics coming up and you can brush up your tech skills with our Tech Talk program. Our always popular Crafternoon program has a fresh lineup of crafts for you to explore and learn. Spring is going to be busy at the library for adults.

### The Blood Trials

by N. E. Davenport

Blending fantasy and science fiction, N. E. Davenport's fast-paced, action-packed debut kicks off a duology of loyalty and rebellion, in which a young Black woman must survive deadly trials in a racist and misogynistic society to become an elite warrior.

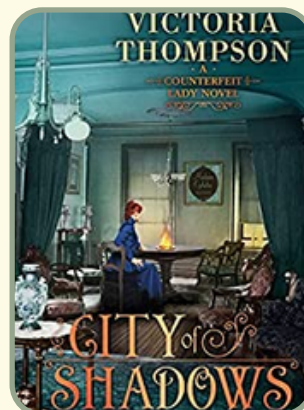
The blood spilled between the Republic of Mareen and the armies of the Blood Emperor long ago. The blood that runs through the elite War Houses of Mareen, the rulers of the Tribunal dedicated to keeping the republic alive.



### City of Shadows

by Victoria Thompson

Elizabeth Miles Bates has returned from her honeymoon cruise and is taking great pride in having completely forsaken her past life as a con artist. Then her friend, Anna Vanderslice, begs her to use her talents to help save her widowed mother from a disreputable medium. Since the war and the flu epidemic left so many families bereaved, interest in contacting the dead has experienced a revival.





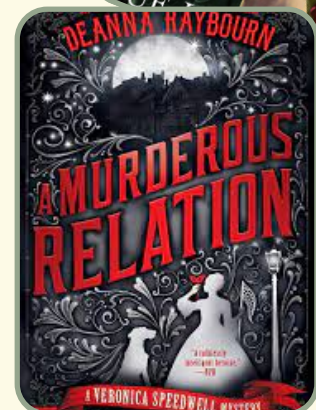
# Judging a book by its cover

We've all heard "you can't judge a book by its cover" but generally that isn't always true. Publishers usually use similar covers and fonts for books within a genre like romance, mystery or fantasy because it makes it easier for readers to quickly find the books they like. We are also more likely to try a new book if it looks like a book we've already enjoyed or by a bigger name author. However, there are some big changes happening behind the publishing scenes that are making it hard for readers to judge a book by their cover. Behind the scenes here at the library even our staff is having trouble telling if a book is a kids or adult book, or a romance or mystery because of these changes.

If you're interested there's a couple reasons for these changes. First is the arrival of AI and vector art. This means publishers don't need to hire artists for their covers and so it's a lot cheaper to produce. This usually results in more cartoony images or background scenery covers. Some are skipping the images completely and making the title and author information bigger on a coloured background. Many of these covers look more like what we've seen from Teen and Junior novels or older women's fiction like the Shopaholic series. However don't be fooled many of these new books have the same spicy romance or grisly murders hiding behind their covers.

The second is a major shift in romance novel publishers changing from pocket paperback size to trade paperback size. The major reason for this is that publishers can sell the book for more money if it's in the larger size. However, if this is successful I suspect we will see it move through all genres in the years ahead. We've also seen a lot of variations on the pocket paperback sizing lately too.

All this is to say that maybe right now it might be harder to judge a book by its cover and if you need some help finding new books any of our lovely staff would be happy to make some recommendations. Happy Reading!!





ADULT PROGRAM

# Adult Crafternoon

Join us every month to try new craft techniques. Create, learn, and visit with other crafters.

Please register with the library.

SATURDAYS @ 2PM ONCE A MONTH

- APRIL 15 - PAPER BEAD JEWELRY
- MAY 20 - GLASS PAINTING
- JUNE 17 - GARDEN ORNAMENT

*Registration Required*



ADULT DROP IN PROGRAM

# TECH TALK

Explore the basics of online resources, advancing technology, and more in straightforward discussions and through hands on practice and assistance.

4th Wednesday of the Month @7PM

- Apr 26 - Google Applications
- May 24 - All About AI Art



ADULT PROGRAM

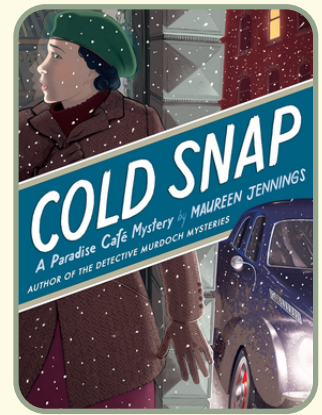
# Level Up Your Life

This collaborative group is all about learning new skills and building a better life. A broad range of topics will be covered from month to month - financial literacy, mental wellness, entrepreneurship, organization, and more!

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH @ 2PM

- Apr 1 - Vertical Gardening
- May 6 - Pasta from Scratch
- June 3 - Creative Patch Sewing

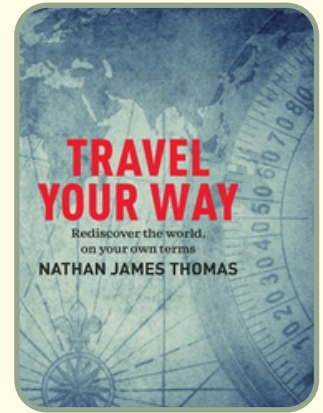
Contact the library to register or for more information.



## Cold Snap

by Maureen Jennings

December 1936. Charlotte Frayne, Private Investigator, is pulled into a dangerous international plot when her boss, Mr. Gilmore, provides shelter to a relative in grave danger. Stephen, a refugee from Germany, is privy to information that could change the very future of a country still reeling from the devastation of the War to End All Wars



## Travel Your Way

by Nathan James Thomas

From advice on how to accurately understand new places to practical tips on meeting with locals, overcoming the language barrier, and asking the right questions, Travel Your Way shows you how to discover the world on your own terms. The result is a more rewarding journey and a greater sense of connection to everywhere you go, whether you're on a business trip, or backpacking across the globe.



# Spring Break at the Library

April 11-14

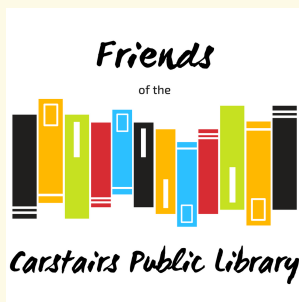
We have lots of fun planned for kids of all ages during Spring Break this year. While school is out for the week the library will have fun activities taking place. You can also drop in and borrow sports equipment to use at the park, join in on a drop in challenge using our toys and choose new books to explore during your time off.

## Friends of the Library

### Help Support the Library and Volunteer

The Friends of the Library are a group of volunteers who support our library by fundraising for new books, equipment and program supplies. They are looking for new members to join them in many different roles, from being someone who helps at a book sale, to a casino volunteer and there are even opportunities to join their board and help plan and organize new fundraisers.

You can learn more by emailing [friendscarstairslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendscarstairslibrary@gmail.com)



HOME SCHOOL HANG OUT AND NO SCHOOL MASHUP!

# MINUTE TO WIN IT

This program is for ages 6-12 years old.

**April 11**

## 1 PM - 2:30 PM



April 14, 2022

### EXPLORER DAY

Grades 1+

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Come in and make a strange world creature and watch the movie Strange World!



Board games

Marble Runs

Branch Blocks

### Passive Programs at the Carstairs Library

Did you know that there is always something to do at the Library? These Programs can be found always in the library just ask at the desk and we will point you in the right direction!



# Spring into Fun for Families

## Read, Romp & Rhyme



0-5 years

Tuesday and Thursday  
10:30am  
Starting Jan. 10th

Enjoy songs, stories,  
music and more!

More information at  
403-337-3943

[WWW.CARSTAIRSPUBLIC.PRL.AB.CA](http://WWW.CARSTAIRSPUBLIC.PRL.AB.CA)

Carstairs  
Public Library



**Farting  
slime**

**Smell it  
challenge**

**and more!**

## Gross Science Day

Lets get a little messy!

May 5th 1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Grades 1+

Schools out  
Let's Play!

SCIENCE

fcss  
Carstairs  
Family and Community  
Support Services

[carstairspublic.prl.ab.ca](http://carstairspublic.prl.ab.ca)

Carstairs  
Public Library

## Homeschool Huddle

Participate in a variety of activities while socializing with other homeschool families.



Runs the 2nd and 4th Tuesday  
of each month

- Children and adults explore an activity together with our families.
- Adults have time to share resources and ideas.

This program is for  
ages 6-12 years old.

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Public Library



fcss  
Carstairs  
Family and Community  
Support Services

[carstairspublic.prl.ab.ca](http://carstairspublic.prl.ab.ca)

## NO SCHOOL DAY Chia pet

**MAY 19, 2023**

**1:00-3:00PM**

**GRADE 1 AND UP**

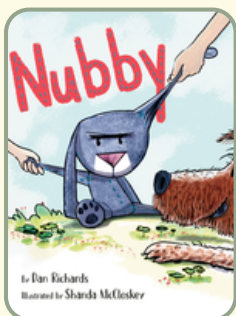
Join us at the library  
to make your very  
own chia pet and  
learn about plants!



Carstairs  
Public Library

[carstairspublic.prl.ab.ca](http://carstairspublic.prl.ab.ca)

fcss  
Carstairs  
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**Nubby**

by **Dan Richards**

Nubby the stuffed rabbit is his owner's favorite toy, but you wouldn't know it from the way he's treated. He's been dropped, dragged, and even used as a nose wipe.



**When PB Met J**

By **Katelyn Aronson**

The kitchen may look like a peaceful place, but there was never more division than between the Fridgers and the Cupboard Crew. The Fridgers could be a little too cool. The Cupboard Crew--well, they often got stale. It was clear that the two should never mix.





# WE'RE HIRING!

Summer Programmer  
May 23-Aug 19  
35 hr/wk  
Salary: \$16/hr

This is a Young Canada Works position so applicants must qualify for the Young Canada Works program visit [young-canada-works.canada.ca](http://young-canada-works.canada.ca) for full details. You must have completed Grade 12 and be enrolled in post secondary studies in the fall.

We need an enthusiastic and creative student to join our team this summer to run our Summer Reading Club 2023. We want to bring the love of reading to our whole community this summer and help kids earn prizes for reading! Our program is based around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) concepts and we want to ignite a passion for lifelong learning in children.

**SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY  
APRIL 15TH TO**

Megan Ginther, Library Manager  
[mginther@prl.ab.ca](mailto:mginther@prl.ab.ca) 403-337-3943





# Just for Teens



- April 27th
- Starts at 6:30pm
- Drop in
- Ages 13+

Mario Kart  
Just Dance  
Super Smash Bros  
& More!

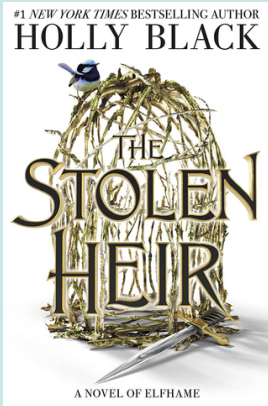


# TEEN

*Book* 

## CLUB

3rd Thursday of the Month  
6:30pm  
contact [cortman@prl.ab.ca](mailto:cortman@prl.ab.ca)  
for current book selection



NEW

## The Stolen Heir By Holly Black

Eight years have passed since the Battle of the Serpent. But in the icy north, Lady Nore of the Court of Teeth has reclaimed the Ice Needle Citadel. There, she is using an ancient relic to create monsters of stick and snow who will do her bidding and exact her revenge.

CARSTAIRS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

AGES 13+  
DROP IN @ THE LIBRARY  
FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 6:30PM

# Just for Teens

## BABYSITTING COURSE

APRIL 29TH  
9:30 AM- 4:30 PM



FOR REGISTRATION GIVE US A  
CALL AT 403-337-3943

**INSTRUCTOR: CORALEY ORTMAN**

Participants must be 11 years old for the Babysitting Course.  
This course costs \$20 for course materials.



## Teen Time

May 25th  
6:00pm  
Ages 13+



## PAINTING BOOK ENDS



## Summer Kickoff

ages +13

June 29th @6:30

COME START THE SUMMER OFF WITH SOME  
CLASSIC GAMES AND FUN AT THE LIBRARY!



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
HOLLY BLACK



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