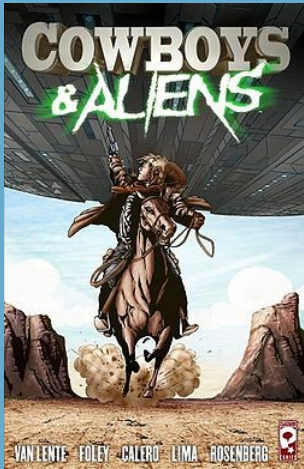


Aliens Have Landed!

On October 26th, 59 students from the Willow Creek Composite High School took full advantage of a videoconference presented through the RISE network at the Claresholm Library. It was an open discussion with Andrew Foley, an Edmonton based author and artist, who was one of the screen writers for the major motion picture "Cowboys & Aliens", starring Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig.



Since the description of the session targeted high school level Language Arts students, I contacted one of the teachers to see if there might be any school interest. He thought it was a fantastic idea, and true to his word, all of his students showed up on our doorstep, eager to learn about the screen writing and graphic novel business. The teacher, Clair Hockley, went so far as to integrate the videoconference into his lesson plan. "Primarily I was looking at helping students see process; writing process, filming process, editing, collaboration, etc.", were Mr. Hockley's comments when asked how the session aided his lessons. "We have the graphic novel at our school, everyone has read it and a number have seen the movie." He mentioned that although the videoconference wasn't the same as being there, it was at least available, and most students enjoyed the session.

Foley seemed surprised, yet enthusiastic about having such a large, unique audience. He even got the kids to start off the session by doing a "wave" to break the ice! He discussed his creative works, which include painting, graphic novel works, and writing. Andrew further mentioned that although writing the Hollywood version for Cowboys & Aliens gained him some exposure, he is hoping that it will not be the only project for which he is forever known. We look forward to seeing what he does next!

Submitted by Shelley Ford, Programming Coordinator for the Claresholm Library

Meet and Greet at Airdrie Public Library

RISE also recently helped Marigold representatives Michelle Toombs, Steven Pattison and Nora Ott attend a meet-and-greet evening at Airdrie Public library. The evening, which included food and refreshments, was designed to introduce City of Airdrie employees and library board members to our facility and show off everything that we offer to our community. Through videoconference technology, Michelle, Steven and Nora were able to visit and chat with everyone in one of our meeting rooms. While they weren't able to partake in our appetizers, the three joined us in a glass of wine.



Submitted by Anne Beaty, Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator, Airdrie Public Library

RISE Videoconference Provides Useful Fund Development



On Nov. 8, 2011, Lethbridge Public Library hosted a videoconference aimed at helping libraries plan and execute their fundraising strategies. Several libraries, including Lethbridge, Airdrie, Claresholm and Medicine Hat, took part in the conference, entitled *Raising Financial Capital in Non-Profit Organizations*.

Facilitated by Richard Larsen, community development officer with Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, the conference focused on several key elements of successful fundraising campaigns. All in all, the information session proved quite valuable. "I found it one of the most accessible and useful fund development sessions I've gone to," said Janine Jevne, Airdrie Public Library director.

One great idea Larsen presented was the concept of donor mapping – laying out a wide variety of potential funding sources, from community foundations to international institutions, from corporations to lobby groups. He also left participants with several tips on the whole fundraising process, such as:

- Do your homework and research into potential donors. Donor management software is another way of keeping track of your past, present and future needs.
- Look for "community investment" on business/corporate websites to determine if the company's strategies align with your funding need.
- Don't try to 'force' a funder to come through with the money – this attitude comes through loud and clear in writing. Be grateful for anything you can get and don't take it personally if your funding application/request is denied.

An important point emphasized by Larsen, and one which has stuck with Jevne, is for fundraisers to look at their quest from a broader perspective. In other words, recognize your funder's agenda and not just your own needs/wants. "It's a two-way street," she said. "It's a relationship with sincerity." Thanks to RISE, the participating libraries have benefitted from Larsen's experience and expertise and no doubt will be putting their newfound information to work in the near future.



Submitted by Anne Beaty, Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator, Airdrie Public Library

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