

For immediate release

For more info: Rosemary Bonanno, 250.729.2310

## News Release

### **Cowichan Valley Regional District Lends Support to local partnership for a new library in Cowichan Lake**

**Nanaimo March 19, 2011:** Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL), the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) have entered into a partnership that will facilitate the construction of a new library to improve the level of service to the residents of the Cowichan Lake area. The Town of Lake Cowichan is providing the land, the CVRD is providing the financing, and the Vancouver Island Regional Library will provide the building. It is an excellent example of three organizations working together to benefit the resident of the Cowichan Lake area.

“The citizens of the Cowichan Lake area have always been supportive of their library” said VIRL Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno. “Overwhelming feedback was received as part of the strategic planning process that libraries are busy gathering places, community hubs and an important resource for the information age. Library customers want larger, fully accessible facilities with spaces designed for multiple needs and usages—children’s programs, author visits and other special events that are popular, well-attended and important for fostering lifelong learning and literacy” she said. According to Bonanno a larger facility will provide more room to grow the library collection, comfortable reading lounge space and a designated area for children’s programs.

In order to proceed with the project, the CVRD Board will be borrowing funds on behalf VIRL for the construction of the new library. VIRL will be responsible, through a formal agreement, to pay all of the debt and costs associated with the alternative borrowing process. An additional benefit of this process is that it will result in savings to all members of the VIRL system, as at the end of the mortgage the library system will own the building.

At its meeting on March 9, 2011, the CVRD Board gave 1st, 2nd and 3rd reading to Bylaw 3474-Vancouver Island Regional Library Borrowing Service Area Establishment Bylaw, 2011 and three readings for Bylaw 3475 Vancouver Island Regional Library Service Loan Authorization Bylaw, 2011. Adoption will follow at the next CVRD Board meeting on April 13, 2011.

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Sandspit Sayward Sidney/North Saanich Sointula Sooke South Cowichan Tahsis Tofino Ucluelet Union Bay Woss