



Vancouver Island Regional Library

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News Release

Celebrate Freedom to Read Week

February 19, 2013 – What if you couldn't choose what you wanted to read when you wanted to read it? Freedom to read should never be taken for granted.

All branches of Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) are celebrating Freedom to Read Week from February 24 to March 2, 2013. Some of the things happening include:

Students in the Vancouver Island University class *ENGL 435: Children's Literature: Freedom to Read* (taught by Professor Terri Doughty) will be displaying posters on challenged children's and youth books at the following Vancouver Island Regional Library branches:

- Nanaimo Harbourfront and Nanaimo Wellington
- Parksville
- Port Alberni
- Cowichan (located in Duncan)

Professor Doughty will also be giving a presentation at the Nanaimo Wellington Branch on **Thursday, February 28 from 7 to 8 pm** entitled "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book? Censorship and Children's Literature".

There are many ways to exercise your right to read including:

- Get a library card – visit your local branch or apply online at www.virl.bc.ca – click on the "Get a Card" button on the homepage
- Visit your library and ask for a tour
- Recommend a good read to a friend
- Help someone learn to read

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is organized by the Book and Periodical Council's Freedom of Expression Committee who works with educators, librarians and the community at large to provide information that addresses censorship and book and magazine challenges in Canada.

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Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland
Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo Wellington Parksville
Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen Charlotte
Sandspit Sayward Sidney/North Saanich Sointula Sooke South Cowichan Tahsis Tofino Ucluelet Union Bay Woss