



Town of Lake Cowichan

For immediate release

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News Release

Vancouver Island Regional Library and the Town of Lake Cowichan announce construction of a larger library facility

NANAIMO February 23, 2011: Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) and the Town of Lake Cowichan have come to an agreement on the establishment of a library facility at a new location. The 1,662 sq ft Cowichan Lake library branch has been at its present location since 1988, where there is no room for expansion to meet current or future needs.

Rosemary Bonanno, VIRL's Executive Director, said that "overwhelming feedback was received as part of the strategic planning process that libraries are busy gathering places, community hubs, and they are an important resource for the information age".

"Borrowers 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.

Last year, the Board of Vancouver Island Regional Library commissioned a consolidated facilities master plan and approved the consultant's suggested minimum target size of 2,750 sq ft.

Based on the population estimate for the region, the size of the Cowichan Lake library branch should be more than double its current size.

According to Bonanno, a larger facility will provide more room to grow the library collection – books, magazines, newspapers, DVD's, CDs. There will be more free public computers and computer stations for children, comfortable lounge seating, study space, meeting rooms, and areas for children's programs.

"The citizens of the Cowichan Lake area have always been supportive of our library" said Mayor Ross Forrest. He added "It is because of this support and the collaborative efforts of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Town of Lake Cowichan that we are now able to announce the proposed construction of a new stand alone public library for the Cowichan Lake area. The new facility is to be located at the corner of South Shore Road and Renfrew Avenue on the old bowling alley property site. We anticipate this will be a giant step towards the revitalization of the downtown business district".

Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

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

Mayor Forrest expresses his thanks to Vancouver Island Regional Library for sharing its vision and having its confidence in the people of this area.

“Special thanks are in order to Councillor McGonigle for his efforts in securing this opportunity on behalf of our community and for his years of representing us on the VIRL Board of Trustees” concluded Mayor Forrest.

The Town of Lake Cowichan has land available near the intersection of Renfrew Avenue and South Shore Road on which VIRL will construct a facility with visible exposure to South Shore Drive.

VIRL intends to access preferred rate financing with the assistance of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. There will not be a direct charge back to the residents for borrowing, as VIRL will be repaying the debt.