



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

News Release

Nanaimo Residents Celebrate Opening of their New Library

NANAIMO, July 22, 2014 – Over 700 people celebrated the official opening of their new Nanaimo North library branch to the tune of music, children’s activities, prizes and the unveiling of one of Vancouver Island’s largest and newest libraries! On July 12th, the new Nanaimo North branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library welcomed hundreds of new and returning library goers to explore and discover their 17,600 square foot public library. Featuring a modern design, a warm and inviting interior, floor-to-ceiling windows, and thousands of new books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, free WiFi, computer stations, bookable meeting rooms with Bluetooth enabled displays, and several alcoves for study, collaboration and creation, the Nanaimo North branch on 6250 Hammond Bay Road has been an anticipated destination and gathering space for the Nanaimo community.

Saturday’s festivities included live performances by the talented Wellington High School Jazz Trio, as well as children’s entertainment by three-time JUNO Award nominees, the Kerplunks, and highly entertaining and spectacular Science Guy (Glenn Kachmar). Support was provided by Shaw Communications, a major sponsor of the technology incorporated in the bookable meeting areas, as well as Serious Coffee on Hammond Bay Road, David’s Tea of Woodgrove Mall, Tutoring with a Twist, and extraordinary promotional support by Woodgrove Mall. A host of prizes were also donated generously by local businesses.

“It was a terrific celebration. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank the community and honour all of those involved in this great accomplishment. This is truly a vital community space and a valuable resource for both residents and businesses of the community.” Bruce Jolliffe, Chair, Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees.

The new Nanaimo North branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library is one of eight new or renovated libraries developed by Vancouver Island Regional Library since 2012. The developments are part of a 10-year facilities plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2009 which allows for the thoughtful improvement and maintenance of Vancouver Island Regional Library’s 39 branches. Since the plans implementation, residents of Gabriola Island, Bella Coola, Port Renfrew, Cumberland, Cowichan Lake, Cortes Island and now Nanaimo North received new libraries that meet the unique needs of their communities. In 2013, total visitors across these new facilities increased 46% with circulation (number of materials borrowed) increasing by 73%.

For more information about Nanaimo North branch, please visit <http://www.virl.bc.ca>.

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is the fourth largest library system in British Columbia. We serve over 430,000 people on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola on the Central Coast through 39 branch libraries, a virtual branch, and a books-by-mail service. VIRL’s holdings number one-million and include books, magazines, CDs and DVDs.

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