



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

News Release

Vancouver Island Regional Library Wins 2014 BCLA Awards

NANAIMO, May 5, 2014 – On May 2nd, the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) was honoured by the British Columbia Libraries Association (BCLA) with two 2014 BCLA Building Project Awards.

Awarded to the Cumberland and Cowichan Lake library branch projects, the Building Project Awards **recognize outstanding achievement in the building of new or substantially renovated library facilities.**

In the words of the Chair for the BCLA Awards Committee, both the Cowichan Lake and the Cumberland projects showcased the leadership provided by VIRL in the development of a strategic plan identifying key building characteristics for our projects overall. Both libraries incorporated elements of the community design and involved strong community involvement and champions.

The Chair furthered that the Committee commends VIRL on the excellence demonstrated in both the Cumberland design-build renovation and the new Cowichan Lake library.

“We’re pleased to receive recognition for these two projects. These awards honour our Board’s commitment to strong libraries, strong communities, as well as acknowledge the incredible support and dedication of our facility development team.” Comments Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, Vancouver Island Regional Library.

The BCLA Awards Committee qualifies outstanding achievement based on the degree to which the project met its major goals and objectives; the level of involvement of staff, Board and community members; the effective use of space and employment of creativity; and the community’s response to the completed project.

The Cumberland branch was officially opened to the community in November, 2013. This design-build project, which incorporated features and building characteristics of the community, resulted in a 3,200 sq. ft. open-concept facility that includes a fireplace, a warm and inviting interior with reading spaces, children’s area with literacy stations, public computers with internet stations, an x-box station, free wireless internet and local programming and literacy training.

The Cowichan Lake branch was also officially opened in November, 2013, and is a purpose-built, standalone 3,000 sq. ft. facility with land generously donated by the Town of Lake Cowichan. Featuring a modern design, the space comfortably hosts 17,000 items in its collection and a series of alcoves for reading and programming for the community.

Both projects were designed and submitted by Low Hammond Rowe Architects Inc., based out of Victoria, B.C.

For more information about the Cumberland and Cowichan Lake Library branches, visit us at www.virl.bc.ca. For more information about the BCLA Awards, visit www.bcla.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 38 branch libraries, a virtual branch, and a books-by-mail service. VIRL's holdings number one-million and include books, magazines, CD's and DVD's. Administrative offices are located in Nanaimo.

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