



Media Release

VIRL *Librarians on the Radio* Program Recognized by BCLA Merit Awards

NANAIMO, May 25th, 2015 – On May 23rd, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) was honoured at the 2015 BCLA (British Columbia Library Association) Annual General Meeting with the 2015 Merit Award, Advocacy and Marketing, for VIRL's *Librarians on the Radio* program.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in a new or ongoing program or series of events that promote advocacy of programs or libraries.

Librarians on the Radio (LotR) airs regularly on CHLY 101.7 FM in Nanaimo in partnership with local Radio Malaspina University. The program was developed by VIRL staff Jason Kuffler, and features VIRL staff hosts Justin Unrau, Patrick Siebold and Emily Orr. The goal of the on-air author interviews, regular booktalks and shared perspectives on literature is to promote library services in the wider Vancouver Island community. Outside of what's happening at VIRL branches, the episodes also showcase librarians with passions and interests, including rousing book debates and covering topics such as movies and even latkes.

Connecting listeners to the larger library world, the show is not only aired live on CHLY radio, it's also available on virl.bc.ca as an mp3 podcast.

On February 24th 2015, LotR hosted internationally recognized author of *Trainspotting*, Irvine Welsh, to celebrate Freedom to Read Week. Hosts Justin Unrau, Jason Kuffler and Emily Orr talked about censorship and the author's new book, as well as a "Banned in Guantanamo Bay" bookfight with librarian Patrick Siebold and our freedom to read eBooks.

The award was presented at the 2015 BCLA AGM held Saturday May 23rd in Vancouver and attended by VIRL staff and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bruce Jolliffe, who received the award on VIRL's behalf.

Tune into *Librarians on the Radio* on CHLY radio (101.7 FM)! Visit us at virl.bc.ca for upcoming episodes. For past episodes, visit <http://virl.bc.ca/news/radio/archive>.

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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, CD's and DVD's. Administrative offices are located in Nanaimo.

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