



New Library for Nanaimo Wellington is Underway

NANAIMO, March 11th, 2016 – Plans are underway for a new Nanaimo Wellington branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL), slated for completion by early 2017.

The current [Nanaimo Wellington library](#) branch, located at [3032 Barons Road](#), is preparing a move to a newly renovated facility at the nearby Country Club Centre.

The new location lends the Nanaimo Wellington branch improved exposure and customer traffic, and better parking. VIRL currently leases the space for the Wellington library branch on Barons Road, which expires at the end of 2016.

The Country Club Centre is a destination for families, seniors and the immediate and surrounding neighbourhoods of central Nanaimo and presents an ideal space for staff and customers in what will be a more purpose-built space tailored for the surrounding community.

The Nanaimo Wellington branch serves a population of approximately 20,900 people and saw over 123,000 visitors through its doors in 2015. The branch has eight computer stations and hosted 358 programs last year (with over 9,000 attendees).

The Nanaimo Wellington branch, one of 39 branch libraries in the Vancouver Island Regional Library system, has been a high priority branch in need of repairs and renovation per [VIRL's Master Facilities Plan](#). The plan was developed by the VIRL Board of Trustees in 2010 as a means to systematically and sustainably maintain the organization's 39 branches.

The existing branch at 3032 Barons Road, Nanaimo, hasn't received any updates in almost two decades, which presented a costly renovation option for VIRL if decided to bring the facility to a minimum level of service and safety.

What's Next?

The community is invited to participate in a public open house on Thursday, April 14th (6:30pm – 7:30pm). VIRL hopes to gain feedback and answer questions, as well as provide info on some of the features that the new branch will offer. Architectural plans and initial designs will be presented and an open Q&A will be made available.

How Will this Affect Customers?

Since the current facility will not be renovated, the library can retain virtually all services at the current Nanaimo Wellington branch until the new branch is opened in 2017 (date to be announced soon after construction begins). Up until the opening of the new facility in 2017, the Wellington

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branch will continue to provide full services, including holds pickup and drop off service, catalogue and public computer access, as well as Library staff support.

When Will I Know More?

More information will follow as a construction timeline is developed. Wellington branch staff will be working closely with customers to ensure they are fully supported during the transition.

For more information, visit please see our [FAQ online](#).

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Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is the fifth-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. Administrative offices are located in Nanaimo.

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