



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

News Release

Quadra Island library a hit

Nanaimo, 2 August 2013 — The new Quadra Island library branch, which opened its doors at Quathiaski Cove just over a year ago, raised a few eyebrows when its first year activity report was reviewed by Rosemary Bonanno, executive director of Vancouver Island Regional Library.

"Quadra's library usage is almost off the charts," said Bonanno. "The new branch is a phenomenal hit!

"Figures show that the number of library visitors has almost doubled, membership has risen 24%, participation rates in programs have close to tripled, and computers have seen a 175% increase in use," she added.

Brenda Leigh, vice-chair of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board and trustee for Strathcona, said that performance of the new library is a lot better than anticipated.

"The community of Quadra Island obviously loves their new library. The performance statistics speak for themselves," said Leigh.

"I've been so impressed with how our Vancouver Island Regional Library Board has identified in their facilities plan the need for improved library facilities. Our board made a plan and our management staff has been working very hard to make these wonderfully refreshed, modernized libraries and services available to both urban and rural communities in our very large regional library system," she said.

Jim Abram, regional director for Area C, which includes Quadra Island, expressed his gratitude to the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board for the new library branch.

"We love our new library, and we really appreciate the work of our library representative Brenda Leigh who, I know, has been working hard to see that both rural and urban libraries are upgraded. Quadra really appreciates what our library board has provided for us," said Abram.

The new 3,009 sq. ft. library branch is more than three times the size of the old branch at Heriot Bay and features a welcoming, airy and bright, fully accessible community space with large windows and room for more books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers, magazines, and computers. There is also a small space to display local art.

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