



**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

## News Release

### Official Opening of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Cowichan Lake Branch

**NANAIMO, October 29, 2013** – On Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Vancouver Island Regional Library is pleased to host the official opening of the new Cowichan Lake Branch. The community is welcomed to celebrate the new ~3,000 sq. ft. branch located at 68 Renfrew Road at 1:00PM. The event will feature music by Darryl Alsbrook and Rhonda Vertefeuille, children's craft activities, cake and refreshments and prize draws for kids and adults.

"We're extremely excited to officially open this beautiful new Library facility in Lake Cowichan," says Bruce Jolliffe, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Vancouver Island Regional Library. "We have over 17,000 items in this locations' collection. Approximately 34,000 people visited the branch last year - we know that this is a popular branch with a strong history in the community."

The new Cowichan Lake Branch is more than twice the size of the previous location, and offers the following services and amenities:

- Designated reading areas with comfortable lounge chairs
- Landscaped garden area
- Numerous computer stations
- Wireless access
- Spacious children's section, with colourful furniture
- Children's literacy computer stations
- Flexible space for programming
- Dedicated study areas
- Express check-out station

"We're so pleased to offer the Town of Lake Cowichan a purpose-built library that will replace the community's current smaller branch. The excitement in the community has been felt as the new branch took shape. We're as excited as the community," says Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director of Vancouver Island Regional Library. "We would like to thank the Town of Lake Cowichan who donated the land, which has been the catalyst needed to expand library services for the citizens of Lake Cowichan. Lake Cowichan has needed a larger, more modern facility for a number of years and sees this new branch as being pivotal in the revitalization of downtown Lake Cowichan. Strong public libraries are indeed the cornerstone of any strong and healthy community!"

The Vancouver Island Regional Library will be giving away special prizes to the first ten new Library Card memberships issued on the official opening day.

The new Cowichan Lake Branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library is located on 68 Renfrew Avenue and is open on Tuesday - Thursday (10am – 8pm), Friday - Saturday (10am – 5pm), and closed on Sunday and Monday.

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.

- 30 -

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