

Trustees elect Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive

The Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, January 28, 2012.

As required by the Library Act, the annual election for the Board's officers was conducted. The Board's Executive Committee consists of 11 members, comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, and nine members-at-large. Results were as follows:

- Chair:** Ronna-Rae Leonard (Courtenay)
- Vice-Chair:** Brenda Leigh (Strathcona Regional District)
- Members-at-Large:** Penny Cote (Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District)
Bruce Jolliffe (Comox Valley Regional District)
Mel Dorey (Cowichan Valley Regional District)
Joe Bratkowski (Lantzville)
Dave Rushton (Mount Waddington Regional District)
George Holme (Nanaimo Regional District)
Sue Powell (Parksville)
Wally Cheer (Port Clements)
Randy Oliwa (Ucluelet)

A complete list of the 2012 VIRL Board of Trustees is contained at the end of this report.

Cumberland RFP Reissued

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in November 2010 to source a new, larger, bicycle accessible location for our Cumberland branch in the downtown core on Dunsmuir Avenue. Due to the successful proponent's inability to secure the required land, that RFP was terminated and a new one issued. The RFP closes on February 8, 2012.

The Cumberland branch is currently housed in an inadequate, 840 sq ft leased facility and serves a catchment population of 3,016 residents.

Performance Indicators

Trustees learned that in 2011, Vancouver Island Regional Library branches welcomed over 2.7 million visitors and circulated almost five million items. Over 400,000 items were renewed online by VIRL's over 161,000 library card holders. Almost 50,000 people participated in over 2,300 library programs across the Island.

Facilities update

Facility development is guided by the *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan*, approved by the Board in June 2010. At that time a long-term funding plan was also approved, which was put into effect when the budget was adopted in November 2010.

Bella Coola: Interior renovations for the space leased with the Bella Coola Valley Co-op have been finalized. Furniture, equipment, shelving, internet connections, etc, will be in place shortly. An opening date will be announced locally as soon as practical.

Lake Cowichan: Requests for a development permit and a development variance permit for parking have been submitted to the Town of Lake Cowichan. Floor plan finalization and tender document preparation are the next significant steps. A public meeting, which was well attended, was held in Lake Cowichan on January 16th.

Nanaimo North: Design work continues to evolve; the development permit application will be the next significant step. A public open house is scheduled for February 15.

Quadra Island: Construction has been completed and flooring, shelving and furnishings will be installed shortly. Notice to vacate the current premises has been given, and an opening date will be announced shortly.

Branch Activities

Cowichan

Vancouver Island Regional Library partnered with the Duncan Family History Centre to offer an Introductory Session to Genealogy. Fourteen people attended and the branch plans to offer a more advanced session to meet the needs of the community. Over the past four months the branch has been offering documentary movie nights, giving customers the option to view movies that are political, critical and topical. The Reading Tails program involves a specially trained therapy dog from St. John's Ambulance who sits with children between the ages of 6 and 12 and listens as they read a story or chapter from a larger book. These children have a patient, understanding and fuzzy friend who is thrilled they are working hard to read and enjoy books.

Parksville

eBooks and eReaders continue to be hot topics in Parksville. Five one-one sessions were conducted with patrons by the branches' Library Manager. This is a wonderful opportunity for customers to receive a half hour session on how to use these latest tools.

Port Hardy and Port Alice

Kindergarten and Grade 2 classrooms from Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw School are regularly visiting Port Hardy Library, with each class coming once or twice a month. Sea View Elementary Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes are visiting Port Alice Library monthly. Students learn about library services, share stories and songs, and most importantly of all, have fun at the library so it becomes for them a welcoming place in their community.

2012 VIRL Board of Trustees

Campbell River	Ron Kerr
Comox	Hugh MacKinnon
Courtenay.....	Ronna-Rae Leonard - Chair
Cumberland	Kate Greening
Duncan.....	Tom Duncan
Gold River.....	Gordon Waterman
Ladysmith.....	Steve Arnett
Lake Cowichan	Bob Day
Lantzville	Joe Bratkowski - Executive Committee
Masset	Andrew Merilees
Nanaimo	Diane Brennan
North Cowichan.....	Kate Marsh
North Saanich	Elsie McMurphy
Parksville.....	Sue Powell - Executive Committee
Port Alberni	Wendy Kerr
Port Alice	Jan Allen
Port Clements	Wally Cheer - Executive Committee
Port Hardy	Nikki Shaw
Port McNeill	Gaby Wickstrom
Qualicum Beach.....	Mary Brouillette
Queen Charlotte	Greg Martin
Sayward	Diane Mason
Sidney.....	Melissa Hailey
Sooke	Kerrie Reay
Tahsis	Brenda Overton
Tofino.....	Allen Anderson
Ucluelet.....	Randy Oliwa - Executive Committee
Zeballos.....	Debra Morin Brown
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	Penny Cote - Executive Committee
Capital Regional District	Mike Hicks
Central Coast Regional District.....	Cathi McCullagh
Comox Valley Regional District	Bruce Jolliffe - Executive Committee
Cowichan Valley Regional District.....	Mel Dorey - Executive Committee
Mount Waddington Regional District.....	Dave Rushton - Executive Committee
Nanaimo Regional District	George Holme - Executive Committee
Powell River Regional District	Merrick Anderson
Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District	Evan Putterill
Strathcona Regional District.....	Brenda Leigh - Vice Chair

2012 Board meeting dates

- January 28 – Annual General Meeting
- March 31
- June 9
- September 15
- November 24