

# From the Board Table

Vancouver Island Regional Library

March 31, 2012



## VIRL Service Model Backgrounder

Trustees received the VIRL Service Model Backgrounder report, which outlined the unique nature of VIRL's urban / rural delivery area. Six geographic distribution zones partner "hub" branches in larger communities with smaller community branches to improve and encourage teamwork within the zone.



## Consolidated Facilities Master Plan Companion Report Backgrounder

Trustees received the *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan Companion Report* backgrounder, which is a touchstone document underpinning the facility strategy of the Board. The report notes that the evolving role of libraries has created a set of new and complex challenges for those delivery library buildings and services. The libraries of the 21<sup>st</sup> century have changed, expanded, been rethought, and been redesigned. Libraries now provide an increasing range of different services using a multitude of media. They reach a more diverse audience than ever before. A library is becoming a must-have element in the services sought after by a community. The Companion Report backgrounder notes that the maintenance of facilities must be a financial priority now, and in the future, of Vancouver Island Regional Library.



## Facilities Update

Facility development is guided by the Companion report to 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, and reaffirmed in September 2011 with the adoption of the 2012 budget.



## Bella Coola

The new branch celebrated its official opening on March 17, 2012. Over 100 people attended the opening celebration and enjoyed a musical performance by the SAMS Band from Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, cake, refreshments and giveaways.



## Chemainus

The District of North Cowichan will be advised that Vancouver Island Regional Library prefers to build a single-story stand-alone building on the site identified in the *Chemainus Town Centre Revitalization Plan* located on the north east side of Willow Street. The District of North Cowichan will also be asked to confirm their willingness to donate land on the north and east side of Willow Street (adjacent to the Coastal Community Credit Union). A public consultation will also be scheduled for the near future.



## Cumberland

The Board approved the award of the Cumberland RFP to 0907289 BC Ltd, with construction to start no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> pending issuance of permits by the Village of Cumberland. The new library will front onto Dunsmuir Avenue and parking will be available at the front and the rear of the building. Residential units will be located above the library. The building will follow the heritage design guidelines of the Village of Cumberland.

## Quadra Island

The soft opening of the new branch, which took place on Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, was well attended by customers eager to return materials and to borrow new items. Over 1200 customers visited the new branch in the first eight days it was open; the old branch averaged 2400 visits per month. The official opening is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Sooke

The Sooke branch will be the first new or expanded facility to fall under the revised facility policy adopted in June 2011. A joint public consultation with the District of Sooke has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> in Sooke.

## Resolution to the British Columbia Library Trustees Association (BCLTA)

Trustees agreed that VIRC delegates to the BCLTA Annual General Meeting should lobby for direct provincial funding for BC libraries and that public libraries be given recognition that goes beyond education to the community. Trustees passed the following resolution: "WHEREAS the libraries in British Columbia are important to the quality of life, lifelong learning and social fabric of the communities throughout the province of British Columbia, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the British Columbia Library Trustees Association and the British Columbia Library Association strongly advocate that the Provincial Government specifically recognize the broader mandate of libraries in British Columbia and reinstate the line item in the provincial budget".

## Employee recognized by Chemainus and District Chamber of Commerce

Congratulations to Margaret Fisher, Circulation Supervisor at the Chemainus branch, for being recognized as Employee of the Year by the Chemainus and District Chamber of Commerce. The Golden Brush Awards for Excellence and Outstanding Achievements in Business and Community Participation are awarded annually. The Employee of the Year award is given to employees who demonstrate a sustained dedication and commitment to their work, provide outstanding customer service, initiate improvements in the workplace, and maintain a positive work-life balance.

Margaret was nominated by a library customer who appreciated her help in ordering books for him, teaching him the new technology, for remembering his name, and for her friendliness.

## Branch Activities

### Bowser

eBooks and eReaders continue to be very popular with customers. Five patrons attended an introductory session on eBooks and eReaders conducted by the library manager. This is the first adult programming at the Bowser branch. A second session is already planned.

**Courtenay**

The branch welcomed more than 550 people on Family Literacy Day. More than 300 book bags filled with items and books donated by local literacy groups were given out. Families enjoyed interactive literacy stations, a pirate storyteller, an Inuit storyteller, rhyme time and the introduction of the new kindergarten kits. The chief of the Courtenay RCMP and the local fire chief both read stories with the children.

**Nanaimo Harbourfront**

The branch collaborated with School District 68, Greater Nanaimo Early Years Partnership, Success by 6, Ladysmith Early Years Partnership and the Vancouver Island Health Authority on My Story Your Story: Celebrating Family Literacy Day 2012. More than 700 people visited the branch and enjoyed events including a parent-child Mother Goose storytime session and a performance by award-winning children's entertainers the Kerplunks. Parents and children were soon out of their seats dancing to the upbeat lyrics and musical styles.

**Qualicum Beach**

More than 100 people attended Seedy Saturday and the branch hosted the Town of Qualicum Beach's Cultural Café sessions. Staff has conducted two eBook sessions, weekly storytimes for babies, and participated in the launch of the seniors and youth targeted "BLT 2 Go" literacy bus. The Happy Gang, a senior's social group, was introduced to the library's electronic products and services at their monthly meeting at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

**Sidney/North Saanich**

The adult reading program, Hot Reads for Cold Nights, returned for a fifth installment. The program is based on the hugely successful Summer Reading Club for Children. For seven weeks Sidney/North Saanich adults enter contests, write reviews and win rewards for their reading. In late February a crowd braved a cold Friday night to listen to a talk by local artist and architect Keith Dewey. Mr Dewey spoke about how he builds sustainable housing out of shipping containers. The customer service librarian assembled a large display of library materials about renewable energy and alternative housing, which was snapped up before the end of the evening.