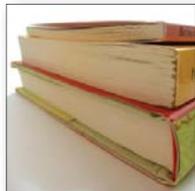


From the Board Table

Vancouver Island Regional Library

April 6, 2013



Donations and Corporate Sponsorship Policy

Trustees discussed a Donations and Corporate Sponsorship Policy that combines existing policies and defines the terms and conditions for the acceptance of donations including gifts, funds for the purchase of print or non-print material, donation of land, facility enhancement and/or corporate sponsorship.



Facilities Update

Cortes Island Branch

In the fall of 2012, Trustees voted to enter into an intent to lease agreement with the Linnaea Farm Society for the operation of a library on Cortes Island located in Roque Room in the former Linnaea School. In late February the Strathcona Regional District held first and second readings of a zoning bylaw to rezone the land on which the former Linnaea School sits to allow for the operation of a library in the Roque Room. A public hearing was held at the end of March and the Strathcona Regional District will make its decision at a meeting on April 10, 2013.



Cowichan Lake Branch

Construction continues on the new Cowichan Lake branch located near the corner of South Shore Road and Renfrew Avenue. The main building structure is nearly complete. Photos showing the progress of construction can be viewed at www.virl.bc.ca (click on the "We're Building New Branches" button on the left hand side of the homepage). The branch is anticipated to open in the fall of 2013.



Cumberland Branch

Construction began on the Cumberland Branch in late 2012. The new library will be almost three and half times larger than the current branch. The exterior structure is now complete. The Cumberland Branch is anticipated to open its doors late in 2013.



Nanaimo North Branch

Work began on the new Nanaimo North Branch in January 2013. Demolition of the south portion of the existing building that used to house the administrative staff of Vancouver Island Regional Library is complete. Work on the interior portion of the building remaining has begun. Construction of the new footprint area will begin soon. Photos showing the progress of construction can be viewed at www.virl.bc.ca (click on the "We're Building New Branches" button on the left hand side of the homepage). The Nanaimo North Branch will serve residents in north Nanaimo, Lantzville and Nanoose and is anticipated to open in the late spring of 2014.



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Port Renfrew Branch

The branch is moving from its current location at the Port Renfrew Elementary School to the town's recreation centre. Capital Regional District staff is working on HVAC and electrical drawings. The library's collection will be refreshed, additional internet access will be provided and new furniture and fixtures will be added. The new branch is anticipated to open in the late summer of 2013.

Branch Activities

Following is a sample of the many programs and activities happening in our branches and communities.

Bella Coola Branch

Over 60 people enjoyed a puppet show and the traditional Ukrainian folktale "The Mitten" put on by branch staff.

Bowser Branch

Local knitters, the Bowser KnitWits meet weekly at the library, exploring patterns from the wonderful collections of knitting books and magazines. Saturday Storytimes for children are well attended. Sessions on genealogical research and eBooks are always well received.

Campbell River Branch

The introduction to eBooks sessions are very popular with staff planning more sessions on a regular basis. A memoir writing workshop facilitated by Diane Hoffmann, a certified professional consultant on aging, was very well attended.

The Adult Services librarian put together a display for Freedom to Read Week. Public libraries occasionally receive complaints from customers about the types of materials they carry. Displays like this remind customers of the library's role in protecting and promoting intellectual freedom in their community.

Comox Branch

The branch celebrated Valentine's Day with a Love Your Library initiative and Kiss contest (featuring a guessing game of how many Hershey's kisses were in a jar). Customers showed their love for the library by filling in a valentine and posting it on the library window. The branch held its first ever Teen/Tween Comic Contest that generated a lot of interest.

Courtenay Branch

Family Literacy Day in January saw hundreds of families pack the branch to enjoy celebrity readers and pick up a free VIRL book bag full of literacy items arranged by the Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association. eBook classes are extremely popular with the number of participants tripling in each session.

Cowichan Branch

The children's librarian assisted School District 79 deliver part of their PALS program (Parents as Learning Supporters) by offering storytimes to 260 kindergarteners. She also spoke with over 100 parents about how they can improve the literacy skills of their kindergarten children.

The monthly Music in the Library series is very popular and is enjoying promotion by the Cowichan Intercultural Society. The branch has also started to host Brain Fitness Classes in partnership with the Cowichan Seniors Community Foundation. Brain Fitness is a supportive, informative and social program for individuals interested in preventing memory deterioration, or for those with mild cognitive impairment or early dementia. The program already has a waiting list.

Cowichan Lake Branch

Customers enjoyed an evening presentation by a local physiotherapist on how to prevent falls by seniors. The ground breaking ceremony for the new branch took place at the end of January with local staff, Trustees Mel Dorey and Bob Day, Ross Forrest the Mayor of Lake Cowichan, architect Paul Hammond, and VIRL Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno in attendance.

Gabriola Island Branch

Family Literacy Day was celebrated with music, song, face painting, rhymes, refreshments and book giveaways thanks to funding from the Gabriola Island Friends of the Library. Valentine's Day was celebrated with a special display called *Blind Date with a Book*. People were encouraged to sign out secret books that had been wrapped up like presents.

Ladysmith Branch

Family Literacy Day was celebrated with stories, songs, games, crafts and face painting. Preschool Storytime is well attended each week with a dedicated following of preschoolers and their parents and caregivers.

Masset Branch

Two StrongStart groups of babies and children and their parents learned tickling rhymes and listened to stories. Preschoolers and their parents and caregivers enjoy regular storytime programs with seasonal themes.

Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

The weekly Spanish Conversation Club continues to be a huge success as does the Harbourfront Book Club. Three customer service librarians are now regular guests on CHLY FM's "Sweet and Sour Variety Hour" with a segment that promotes programs at the branch and has customers asking the librarians to track down long, lost favourite books.

The branch is offering computer literacy classes for English as a Second Language students in partnership with the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society. Other recent programs include a local adventurer discussing her hike along the Camino, (a sacred pilgrimage route through Spain), and a local herb specialist discussing healing herbs.

The branch launched “Are you smarter than a librarian”, a drop-in game where customers challenge the librarian(s) on duty to a game of Scrabble (or one of 10 other games). Winning customers get a laminated certificate with their name and the signatures of the librarians they beat.

Nanaimo Wellington Branch

Family Literacy Day was celebrated by over 150 children, parents and grandparents enjoying stories and songs by Michel Kusugak Inuit storyteller extraordinaire. Friends of the Wellington Library and student volunteers from Vancouver Island University’s Early Childhood Education program served refreshments and staffed craft tables.

Programs for families continue to be a big hit with Lego making and rocket making and racing taking place in February. Freedom to Read Week was celebrated with a presentation by the Chair of the Vancouver Island University English Department about the fears that drive people to challenge books.

Parksville Branch

Family Literacy Day saw families participating in literacy based activities to receive a prize. Other programs in January included storytime and babytime, Saturday Stitchers, a dual author reading/book launch Dads Night Out and the Parksville Readers Book Club. The branch is hosting a “Travel Series” from January to May in the Forum at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre featuring local speakers who show slides and talk about highlights of their travels. The branch promotes their extensive collection of travel guides in book, DVD and eBook formats.

Port Alberni Branch

Programs in January included Dad’s Night Out: Lego in the Library and a book club discussion by the Teen Advisory Group using the new young adult titles added to the Book Club Collection. Introduction to eBooks continues to be very popular along with the Tuesday Book Club. Over 100 attended the Family Literacy Day celebration planned in partnership with Parks and Recreation, the local school division and Vancouver Island Health Authority. Members of the Teen Advisory Group helped create props and puppet voices for the puppet show.

A mapping fieldtrip for a local Grade 3 class was a great success with the teacher and local librarian creating a scavenger hunt to introduce the class to the library.

Port Alice Branch

Customers are now able to pick up their own holds, allowing staff to focus on other customer service tasks.

Port Clements Branch

Local preschool, kindergarten and grade one children enjoy regular storytimes, puppets and felt stories.

Port Hardy Branch

The branch hosted its first Writer's Café in February with seventeen aspiring writers in attendance. Local north Island writers Garth Holden (Port Hardy) and Jon Taylor (Sointula) read from their own works and answered questions about the writing process.

Port Renfrew Branch

The first week of 2013 brought another tsunami advisory, resulting in a heightened interest in emergency preparedness information at the branch. Staff is busy preparing for the move to the new branch to be located in the community centre.

Qualicum Beach Branch

Storytime attendance grows every month with happy preschoolers, toddlers and babies enjoying the activities with parents and grandparents. Tech Thursdays at the Library is a very popular program and gives customers a flavour of the many services offered by the eLibrary. Family Literacy Day was celebrated with board games and puzzles. Customers enjoyed an adult and kids word scramble with words hung up around the branch. Valentine's Day was celebrated with "Blind Date with a Book" where books were wrapped like presents, concealing their identity. The only hint given to the readers was a phrase about the book written on the wrapping paper.

Staff attended Seedy Saturday with the customer service librarian sharing adult gardening books, picture books and a great selection of gardening magazines downloaded from Zinio (our free eMagazine service) onto an iPad.

Queen Charlotte Branch

The daycare storytime group enjoys songs, stories and puppet shows. Proving that the library offers something for all ages, local staff also help conduct the computer classes at the seniors centre. Seniors learn how to use the computer and how to borrow materials from the eLibrary. Teen Night @ the Legion met twice at the library for movies.

Sandspit Branch

Two StrongStart groups of babies and children and their parents learned tickling rhymes and listened to stories. Preschoolers and their parents and caregivers enjoy regular storytime programs with seasonal themes.

Sidney/North Saanich Branch

The Adult Reading Program at the branch is celebrating its sixth year with this year's theme of Bloomin' Good Reads. Staff created decorations, a bouquet of bookmarks with reading suggestions, and interesting book displays to get the community inspired about their reading.

Family Literacy Day was celebrated with scientific learning and fun. Children enjoyed the Whiz Bang Science Show and got involved with hands-on activities. Parents of young children received gift bags of books from the 1000 x 5 Children's Book Recycling Project and "I love to learn" pins and information were provided by the Saanich Peninsula Literacy Task Group.

Sointula Branch

Customers are now able to pick up their own holds, allowing staff to focus on other customer service tasks.

Sooke Branch

Orientation sessions on how to download eBooks and enjoy the many services of VIRLs eLibrary are very popular at the branch. Regular Storytime and Babytime programs are also well attended.

A special event and drop-in activities were organized during the week leading up to Family Literacy Day. Families created their own puppet show, children were keen to try writing their names on the windows using washable markers and parents took home information on how to incorporate fun literacy activities into their daily lives. Buttons celebrating learning and reading (donated by the local literacy outreach coordinator) were distributed and proudly worn by both children and adults.

The branch began hosting a knitting circle once a week, as an opportunity to promote knitting, sewing and craft-related resources to participants in a relaxed and social environment. Branch staff members raised awareness about Freedom to Read Week by creating a display featuring books that have been banned or challenged in Canada. Many customers celebrated their own freedom to read by borrowing a challenged book.

South Cowichan Branch

Customers enjoyed a contest to win a Canada Reads book bag with the books of the five Canada Reads finalists. The demand for eBook instruction continues to rise with almost hourly requests! Staff help customers with their tablets and eReaders using the free Wi-Fi available at the branch.

The Ready, Set, Seedling! Program saw a local organic gardener demonstrate how to start seedlings from seed. Valentine's Day was celebrated with a Blind Date with a Movie display where romantic DVDs were wrapped in paper with only the rating and three descriptive words written on the wrapper.

Many books, CDs and DVDs were featured in the Black History Month display.

Woss Branch

Customers are now able to pick up their own holds, allowing staff to focus on other customer service tasks.

Freedom to Read Week Collaboration with Vancouver Island University

Freedom to Read Week is celebrated every year throughout Canada and at VIRL locations. Libraries, schools and community groups celebrate freedom of expression by organizing or participating in Freedom to Read Week events.

This year the Chair of the English Department at Vancouver Island University collaborated with librarians at our Nanaimo Harbourfront, Nanaimo Wellington, Parksville, Port Alberni and Cowichan Branches to showcase displays created by the English students and talk about the meaning of Freedom to Read particularly in relation to children's literature.

This collaboration promotes the role of public libraries in the education of university students and fosters cooperation between the library and the university in the participating communities.

National Reading Campaign Win

Trustees were pleased to learn that Vancouver Island Regional Library won \$1,000 worth of new children's books thanks to participation in the National Reading Campaign's "What did you read today?" kids' contest. The contest ran from November 14 to December 31, 2012.

The contest had kids in classrooms and public libraries across the country filling in colourful "What did you read today?" activity sheets which were displayed, photographed and tweeted to the National Reading Campaign's twitter page. Each Twitter submission represented a contest entry. Our librarians enthusiastically encourage children to participate and submitted the tweets on their behalf.