

From the Board Table

Vancouver Island Regional Library

June 15, 2013



Audited Financial Statements 2012

Each year after completion of the audit, trustees are presented with the organization's financial statements and recommendations by the auditors. Trustees received and discussed four primary statements: (1) The Consolidated Statement of Financial Position; (2) the Consolidated Statement of Operations; (3) the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Debt); and (4) The Consolidated Statement of Cash flows.



Overall, the results from the operations and financing activities of Vancouver Island Regional Library were positive for 2012 and the organization was able to proceed without drawing on reserves to the extent budgeted. This is good news and will help to address the future need to finance expansion and the upgrading of existing library branches.



Donations and Corporate Sponsorship Policy

Trustees approved a Donations and Corporate Sponsorship Policy which has revised an existing Donor Policy in order to incorporate corporate sponsorship and donations of funds. The new Policy defines the terms and conditions for the acceptance of donations including gifts of print or non-print materials; funds for the purchase of print or non-print materials; donation of land; facility enhancement; and/or corporate sponsorship.



Partnership and/or sponsorship is a mutually beneficial exchange between Vancouver Island Regional Library and an external organization, which allows a partner or sponsor to contribute funds or pre-approved products to Vancouver Island Regional Library in return for recognition, acknowledgement or other promotional consideration.



Facility Projects 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 the Roque Room of the former Linnaea School. On April 10, 2013 the Strathcona Regional District Board passed the required zoning amendment. Next steps involve making the changes required to accommodate a library within the former school and to ensure appropriate customer access to the branch. The branch is anticipated to open in the late fall of 2013.



Port Renfrew Branch

The branch is moving from its current location at the Port Renfrew Elementary School to the town's recreation centre. The branch'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.



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Cowichan Lake Branch

Construction continues on the new branch being built in the Town of Lake Cowichan which will be more than twice as big as the current branch. The main structure is nearly complete with exterior siding being installed. Drywall finishing and grounds work has also begun. The new branch is anticipated to open in the fall of 2013. . 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).

Cumberland Branch

Construction continues on the new branch being built in the Village of Cumberland. The new library will be almost three and half times larger than the current branch and will replace an old undersized facility. The exterior structure is complete with windows being installed in early May. The new branch is anticipated to open its doors in late 2013. 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).

Nanaimo North Branch

Construction is proceeding well on the new Nanaimo North Branch being built on Hammond Bay Road. Steel beams are being erected on the building footprint and interior work continues on the portion of the former administration building being renovated to house the administrative and support services staff of Vancouver Island Regional Library. The Nanaimo North Branch will serve residents in north Nanaimo, Lantzville and Nanoose and is anticipated to open in the late spring of 2014. 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).

Key chain library cards

Trustees were introduced to VIRL's brand new key chain library cards, which provide a new level of convenience for our customers. Thanks to a partnership with the Vancouver Island Newspaper Group, and the generous support of corporate sponsors, key chain library cards are now available at all 38 VIRL branches. Customers can add the tag to their key chain and always have their library card handy. The Vancouver Island Newspaper Group, and the following corporate sponsors, contributed \$20,000 to launch this initiative: Nanaimo Canadian Tire; Campbell River Harris NISSAN, Vancouver Island Insurance Centres, Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo McDonald's, and Klitsa Tutoring (Literacy Alberni Society).

Enhancements to eLibrary Resources

Our eLibrary provides customers with an array of eResources. One of our most popular databases is Mango Languages which allows library customers to learn a new language from the comfort of their home. Trustees learned that recently the number of languages offered through Mango Languages has increased from 6 to 45. Languages include Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian, Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian and more. Mango Languages provides conversational proficiency by immersing the user in real, everyday conversations. Mango Languages is heavily used by VIRL customers. Out of a total of 4,234 online sessions for databases so far in 2013, Mango Languages has accounted for 1,173 sessions.

Branch Activities

The following are highlights of the many programs and events being held every day in our libraries.

Bowser Branch

The KnitWit knitting group meets at the branch every Thursday with an average of five people attending each group.

Campbell River Branch

A new monthly Teen Book Club has started at the branch thanks to advice from the Teen Advisory Group. Teens meet once a month on Saturdays to talk about books from a specific genre.

During Teen Tech Week the branch offered drop-in podcasting lessons along with an electronic resource treasure hunt. To start off spring break, the branch hosted Glenn Kachmar's new Whiz Bang Science Show. Over 150 enthusiastic people attended!

Youth Librarian Justin Unrau visits École Phoenix Middle School each month for some noon-hour book talking. He has also spoken to students in two Grade 12 communications classes about reading stories to children.

Chemainus Branch

As part of spring break celebrations the branch hosted a Lego Challenge for children and their parents. While visiting with the parents in attendance the children's librarian was able to connect a Spanish speaking family with the Spanish Storytime being hosted at the Cowichan Branch.

Comox Branch

Storytime is very popular at the branch with over twenty parents and children attending each session. The Reading Buddies program, conducted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Comox and Brooklyn Elementary School, sees children enjoying one-on-one reading with an adult volunteer.

eBooks are extremely popular and customers enjoy the Ease into eBooks instructional sessions, and one-on-one assistance from Customer Services Librarian Natalie Catto.

National Poetry Month was celebrated by partnering with the Comox Valley Writers' Society. The branch hosted a Light Verse for Adults program which saw local poets and writers read aloud published and original verse.

Courtenay Branch

Fifteen local knitters participate in weekly knitting sessions at the branch. While this is not a programmed event, the library is happy to provide a regular meeting place in the community.

Special drop-in spring break activities attracted 65 participants to a Duct Tape Wallet Craft and a "Can you find it?" Dewey Search Game. A special display of a 1 ½ foot-high LEGO space shuttle in the Library Manager's office has been entertaining passing children and adults and is helping to advertise LEGO programs at the library.

Author visits are very popular at the branch with almost 60 people attending four recent sessions.

Cowichan Branch

In March, the branch began offering a Mindfulness Meditation program. An average of 20 people attends each session, many of them new faces in the library. Ongoing popular adult programs include Spanish Class and Brain Fitness.

Weekly Family Storytimes are growing in popularity with one group of moms making a regular routine of meeting at the library for storytime, then going for coffee and a walk together afterward. Teen Tech Week was celebrated with a Teen Photography Workshop. Teens learned about getting the most out of their digital cameras, and then practiced their new skills by shooting scenes in the library.

Cowichan Lake Branch

Family Storytimes are very popular with over 30 people attending each month. Tuesday Talk Nights draw a consistent crowd which fills the branch. The demand for eReader training remains strong with a steady stream of customers signing up to learn about borrowing eBooks from the library.

Gabriola Island Branch

During Teen Tech Week local teens learned about the many valuable and authoritative electronic resources available at the library. These resources are a great source of homework help for teens. A display of "old" technology was created which included a slide rule and a typewriter. Many of the younger customers who visited the branch had never seen a slide rule before!

Gabriola Island Friends of the Library presented a special event in March. Sonja Arntzen, an expert in early Japanese Literature, gave a talk about *The Tale of Genji*, known as the first novel ever written.

Ladysmith Branch

Library Manager Stephen Warren began a partnership with Literacy Central Vancouver Island to provide free Computer Literacy Classes at the branch on Tuesday evenings throughout March. Ten community members attended and learned basic computer literacy skills.

During the week of spring break, over 50 children participated in a scavenger hunt challenge at the branch.

The Library Manager has been involved in many outreach activities including visits to the Healthy Beginnings Program at the local urgent care facility; the Nanaimo Ladysmith Literacy group; and the Ladysmith Early Years Partnership. These visits are a good way to inform young families about the many great services available at the library.

Masset Branch

In March over 130 children attended a Winter Picnic at the branch. They danced with the Wii, hunted for eggs and shared a storytime tent with other community service organizations.

Two StrongStart storytimes were held in April. The theme of the Storytime was musical books. Community Services Technician Lorelee Parker read *When cats go wrong* by Norm Hacking and everyone danced a simplified tango while listening to a CD of the book. Other books and felt stories were performed as raps while parents helped their children keep the beat.

Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

Programs for new immigrants were a highlight during March. Customer Services Librarian Anthony Martin coordinated with the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society to create and teach a series of Computer Literacy Classes for English as a Second Language students and recent immigrants. Tours of the library were coordinated with the Multicultural Society in order to promote and create programming for new immigrants and refugees.

The branch also hosted a series of workshops on managing stress, tension and ways to maintain health. The workshops were very well attended and successfully promoted health literacy.

Nanaimo Wellington Branch

The Stuffed Animal Sleepover is always a huge hit at the Nanaimo Wellington Branch. This program was offered last summer and since then parents have been clamouring for it to be offered again. Twenty-seven children listened to stories and sang songs with their stuffed animal friends; then, they left their stuffies in the library overnight. The next day the children returned to the library to pick up their stuffed animal friends and to view a slide show of all the crazy antics the animals were involved in during the night!

Customer Services Librarian Julie Carter visited students at three local elementary schools as part of the Reading Link Challenge (RLC) program which promotes the love of reading to Grade 4 and 5 students. Last fall interested students were asked to form teams and become familiar with six selected books. In March, Customer Service Librarians from Nanaimo Wellington and Nanaimo Harbourfront branches visited the schools and quizzed the students on the books. The quizzes featured a game show format complete with music, prizes and oodles of suspense. The winning team from each school competed in the Grand Challenge Level at the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch.

Parksville Branch

Saturday Stitching is offered every other Saturday afternoon at the branch. On average ten adults attend each session. Participants continue to remark that they are happy the library offers a program like this. They appreciate being able to meet with people in the community and share patterns and ideas.

During Teen Tech Week the branch offered a tech quiz to teens. The quiz featured ten questions about the technology and online resources offered by the library.

The branch continues to promote library resources to groups outside of the library. Recent presentations were made at the Vancouver Island University Elder College. The first was a talk with the Genealogy Class to let them know about all of the genealogy resources (both online and in print) available at the library. The second was a talk with the Summer Reading Class to discuss some good reads for the summer and how to write a review in VIRL's online catalogue.

Port Alberni Branch

Programs in March and April included Introduction to eBooks, banding Hummingbirds, Babytime, Toddler Time, Storytime, Dad's Night Out, and a Jewelry Making Demo. Spring break was celebrated with Glenn Kachmar's Whiz Bang Science Show. One hundred children and their parents attended. All of the science experiment books were checked out of the branch after the show, and many parents and children told staff that Whiz Bang was the highlight of their spring break!

Customer Service Librarian Maggie Hodge Kwan presented at a professional development seminar for childcare providers called "Keys to Literacy". Conducted in partnership with PacificCARE and School District 70, "Keys to Literacy" gives childcare workers practical tips on incorporating early literacy activities into their childcare centres. The librarian talked about making literacy fun, demonstrated techniques used in storytime, and advertised the various library resources available for childcare providers to borrow.

Port Alice Branch

Spring break was a fun time for readers with kids picking up lots of fun colouring activity sheets and many different craft ideas. Each month students from Seaview Elementary School visit the library to work on their research projects and take out books.

Port Clements Branch

In March, almost 30 children listened to Stone Soup and The Great Big Especially Beautiful Easter Egg read during a special storytime. The children also worked on echo songs and oral folk tales. Daycare storytime has progressed from taking turns to listening to stories as a group. Four sessions with an average of seven children each featured cumulative animal stories with a felt board for a visual aid.

Port Hardy Branch

Spring Break at the branch saw kids picking up lots of fun colouring activity sheets and many different craft ideas. Mother Goose visits the library on Fridays and thrills the children with storytime and crafts.

The Port Hardy Gardening Club has started meeting at the library and the meetings are well attended. A small but excited group of Dads enjoyed their spring "Dad's Night out" at the branch. The theme was spring gardens and included a story and a craft.

Port McNeill Branch

Spring Break was a fun time for readers with children visiting the branch to pick up colouring activity sheets and lots of different craft ideas. For the wrap up of Spring Break programming, Mother Goose and the Literacy Bus performed a special storytime and taught the kids how to make a rabbit with origami.

The branch hosted a visit from North Island Secondary with students from the Connections program. Circulation Supervisor Roberta Day, and Customer Services Technician Indira Wickramasinghe, talked to the students about their jobs at the library as well as their training and education background.

The Turning Pennies into Books fundraising drive has sparked quite a bit of interest in the community. One of the classes at Sunset Elementary School has made a class project around it and raised over \$80.00 in pennies!

Port Renfrew Branch

The branch is preparing for its fall relocation to the town's Recreation Centre. The new branch will feature a refreshed collection with an increase in high-demand items including DVDs and adult fiction.

Quadra Island Branch

Preschool story time is very popular at the Branch averaging 8 to 10 children who enjoy themselves immensely. During Spring Break the Quadra Island Community Centre hosted activities for school-aged children and brought a small group of elementary students to the branch for a visit. Youth Librarian Justin Unrau read the group some stories and then gave them a tour of the branch with a special focus on non-fiction books about origami and Lego.

Well-known local storyteller Annette Yourk presented a Spring Storytelling program for an all ages audience.

Qualicum Beach Branch

Harlequin romance writer Lee McKenzie presented to a group of romance writers and readers. He explored the craft of romance writing and talked about writing novels for Harlequin. Award winning author Matthew Hughes presented on The Art of Crime and Science Fiction Writing to a group of 10 local writers. Matthew read one of his short crime stories and talked about his career as a crime and science fiction writer in Canada and the UK.

The monthly Storytime at the Gardens Retirement Home is greatly enjoyed by seniors, preschoolers and babies. They are joined by Britta, a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog, who loves visiting the retirement home with Customer Services Librarian Helen Stevens.

Children's author Linda Granfield gave a very successful illustrated talk on John McRae and his famous poem "In Flanders Fields". She used old photographs and WW1 artifacts to bring his story to life.

Queen Charlotte City

Children and adults from Queen Charlotte Childcare enjoyed a storytime with special guests from a Skidegate daycare. The storytime featured felt stories, the Haida names of animals, mushrooms in the rain, and Doxinaay (a Haida Red Rover Game).

The Seniors' Computer classes are very popular providing lots of information on downloading and enjoying eBooks. The branch has also been serving as a temporary teen centre with local teens enjoying a teen movie and Wii night.

Sidney/North Saanich Branch

The Sidney/North Saanich Library's Writers Group hosted its first Open Mic, "10 Minutes of Fame" at the branch. Open Mic gives writers the opportunity to share their work with an audience. Two writer's groups meet monthly at the branch allowing writers to network and learn about the various aspects of writing and to critique their work.

Two board games programs were offered in March. The branch provides board games that support a child's cognitive and social development and that are good fun to play. Families are welcome to use the board games any time they visit the library.

Children 5 years of age and older enjoyed a From Books to Bookmarks program using the library's discarded books to create their own bookmarks. To get everyone inspired, the kids first viewed a slide show of amazing uses for recycled library books and then worked on their own creations.

Sointula Branch

Spring break was a fun time for readers with children visiting the branch to pick up lots of colouring activity sheets and many different craft ideas.

In April, authors John Taylor and Garth Holden presented the first Writer's Café at the branch. Both authors read from their award winning short stories and then answered questions from the appreciative audience. Many of the attendees were budding writers and had questions about the writing process and how to get published.

Sooke Branch

During Teen Tech Week the branch invited young adults to drop by the library to discover the wide variety of free, online resources available to educate and entertain. To help illustrate how the library has kept pace with technological change, an eye-catching, "old tech" display was created, contrasting with what the library had to offer "then" and what it has to offer "now". This also served as an opportunity to highlight VIRL's new Homework Help databases.

During spring break, school-aged children had the chance to practice their writing skills by creating their very own Fractured Fairy Tales (stories where familiar fairy tale characters appear in unusual ways). Their stories were posted in the children's section of the branch and participants received a small prize.

The branch's Knitting Circle meets weekly, welcoming new and returning members. The branch provides a community space for people to gather, relax and enjoy a shared hobby. Library staff promotes knitting books, DVDs and audiobooks through displays in the branch.

During National Poetry in April, the branch once again offered its popular "Bring a Story, Get a Poem" program, hosted by local master poet Wendy Morton. Customers were invited to meet individually with Wendy and share some of their life story. She then composed a personal poem for them to take home.

South Cowichan Branch

A local artist held an "Artist's Books" program for adults. A new concept to many, attendees learned about books that are one-of-a-kind and crafted as works of art. The artist demonstrated some of the tools used for those interested in making their own artist books.

A special storytime presented by a local marimba class performing a musical version of The Three Billy Goats Gruff was a bit hit with children of all ages. Afterward, the audience was allowed to explore the wooden instruments, most far larger than they are.

To celebrate Spring Break the branch offered an origami workshop by a nine-year-old who taught himself origami by checking out library books! He and his mother approached branch staff with the offer to host and they agreed it was a great idea for the end of Spring Break week.

Tofino Branch

Storytime is very popular at the branch with almost 150 children and over 50 adults attending in March and April. Spring Break was celebrated in co-operation with the Pacific Whale Foundation, with Glenn Kachmar's Whiz Bang Science Show.

Woss Branch

Spring Break was a fun time for readers with children visiting the branch to pick up lots of colouring activity sheets, and many different craft ideas. Five local children were all winners of a prize draw for a pencil crayon and eraser set.

Tundra the Wolf visited the branch in March and children enjoyed a storytime featuring several wolf themed stories.