

# From the Board Table

Vancouver Island Regional Library

June 9, 2012



## Facilities Update

Our 2010 *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan* informs all of our facility decisions. Facility development is guided by the companion report (approved by our Board in June 2010) to our *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan*. A long-term funding plan for our facilities was approved by our trustees in June 2010 and put into effect when the VIRL budget was adopted in November 2010. This long term funding plan was reaffirmed in September 2011 with the adoption of the 2012 VIRL budget.

The *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan* is available on our website ([www.virl.bc.ca](http://www.virl.bc.ca)) under About Us/Reports & Plans.



## Campbell River Branch

Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno and Director of Finance Adrian Maas, made a presentation to the Campbell River City Council on May 15, 2012 regarding financing options for libraries. Our Board awaits a formal response from the City of Campbell River.



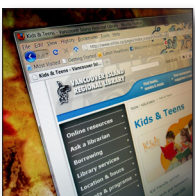
## Chemainus Branch

The Municipal Council of North Cowichan has reaffirmed their original decision regarding the location of the new library to be built in Chemainus. The decision of the Municipality affirms the decision of the Board of Trustees for Vancouver Island Regional Library that the library be located on the Waterwheel property north east side of Willow Street adjacent to the Coastal Community Credit Union.



## Cortes Island Branch

The structural engineer's report on the portion of Manson's Hall specifically used as the Cortes Island Library was received by Vancouver Island Regional Library administration on May 24, 2012. The report was reviewed with Board Chair Ronna-Rae Leonard and shared with Mr. John Sprungman, landlord and President of the Southern Cortes Community Association (SCCA) that same day. The report stated "that the second floor area of the Manson's Community Centre is not suitable for occupancy as a library area." The Board has voted to formally end negotiations with the Southern Cortes Community Association and to begin a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a space of 660 to 2750 square feet to be used as a library on Cortes Island. The RFP process aims to identify a long term solution for library services on Cortes Island as quickly as possible. Vancouver Island Regional Library is committed to providing an environment for library services on Cortes Island that is appealing, comfortable, inviting and safe.



## Cumberland Branch

The new library in Cumberland will be built on the old Bickle Gardens property. Construction of the facility, which will be three times as large as the existing building, will begin in mid-September. The developer and architect have been advised that the Village of Cumberland requires the building to comply with all local bylaws. The new library will front onto Dunsmuir



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Avenue and parking will be available at the front and rear of the building. Residential units will be located above the library.

### **Lake Cowichan Branch**

In the spring of 2011, Vancouver Island Regional Library and the Town of Lake Cowichan entered into a partnership to facilitate the construction of a new library in Lake Cowichan. The Town of Lake Cowichan has granted Vancouver Island Regional Library land near the intersection of Renfrew Avenue and South Shore Road on which to construct a facility on one level with visible exposure to South Shore Road. The architectural design of the library has met with approval by the town. The borrowing process to fund the project has been approved and will soon be in place. Next steps involve the preparation of tender documents.

### **Sooke/Juan de Fuca Branch**

The Sooke branch will be the first new or expanded facility to fall under the Board's new facility policy approved in June 2011. A joint public meeting with the District of Sooke was held in Sooke on May 8, 2012 to define the nature and scope of the project, hear from community members about how they would like the library to look and feel, and to establish a timeline for the project. Once the timeline has been established, a formal Request for Proposals will be issued.

Trustees voted to relocate the Port Renfrew branch from its current location at the Port Renfrew Elementary School to the town's recreation centre. A budget of \$80,000 for minor renovations, furniture and fixtures was established. The library's collection will be refreshed, additional internet access will be provided and new furniture and fixtures will be added.

### **Audited Financial Statements 2011**

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.

### **Branch activities**

#### **Nanaimo Harbourfront**

In April, Customer Services Librarian Anthony Martin coordinated a poem gallery event in celebration of National Poetry Month. He received over 60 submissions which were printed and displayed in the poem gallery window at the library. Those who submitted poems gathered for a celebration and public reading of their works.

The Harbourfront branch represented Vancouver Island Regional Library with a table at the Immigrant Welcome Centre's annual Multicultural Health Fair. The event attracted about 250 individuals from the community, the majority of whom were immigrants. Harbourfront staff spoke to nearly 50 people about programs, materials and services available throughout our library system.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chief Douglas White and National Chief Shawn Atleo gathered for treaty speeches at the Harbourfront branch. The event began with a performance by the Snuneymuxw Dancers in Diana

Krall Square. The dancers led the crowd up to the second floor of the library where over 200 people listened to speeches from local dignitaries and politicians. The event was held in preparation for the conference on pre-Confederation treaties of Vancouver Island co-hosted by Vancouver Island University and the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

### **Nanaimo Wellington**

In March and April the Wellington branch was fortunate to have community members volunteer to come into the library to read and celebrate literary landmarks. Vancouver Island University Professor Terri Doughty and three of her students read selections from banned and censored materials during Freedom to Read Week. During April's national poetry month, three local poets read from their poetry on the theme of balance in life, love, the human body, and the natural world.

### **Parksville**

A lot has been happening at the Parksville branch including an Easter egg colouring contest, Earth Day colouring contest, a talk by John Keller of the Nature Trust of British Columbia, a special Spring Break Curious Storytime and a March Dad's Night Out all about airplanes. 14 children and 10 fathers built paper airplanes and helicopters. The kids launched their creations from the mezzanine at the Parksville Civic Centre to see just how far their airplanes would soar!

### **Port Alberni**

Customer Services Librarian Maggie Hodge Kwan spent much of March in the community talking to parent groups and parents of kindergarten students about literacy and our new kindergarten kits. Three health unit groups for new moms learned about the importance of reading to their babies and many new moms and their little ones have signed up for babytime and enjoy coming into the library and checking out board books and literacy kits.

The Teen Advisory Group meets twice monthly to discuss books, plan future activities for teens, and talk about ways to make the library more teen friendly. Jennie O'Connor from "Let's Knit" in Port Alberni provided an interesting adult program on knitting enjoyed by several people who came to the library to learn about wool and knitting.

### **Port Renfrew**

Kindergarten kits have been popular at the Port Renfrew branch, helping to teach the area's younger student population. The literacy kits are also providing to be an important resource for Port Renfrew's local "Strong Start" and preschool programs. Visits to the library have increased since the post office relocated closer to the branch.

### **Qualicum Beach**

In March, Library Manager Janet Delgatty and Customer Services Librarian Eileen Gillette attended the North Island Distance Education School career fair for teens. Nineteen homeschoolers had many questions and comments about choosing librarianship as a career, VIRL's homework help webpage, and job searching tools and resources available at the library. In April, Customer Service Librarian Eileen Gillette led an intergenerational storytime program at The Gardens Retirement Home in Qualicum Beach. Alongside 30 residents and 15 children and parents, Eileen read stories and sang songs with everyone. Residents are looking forward to the next storytime in May.

## **Sidney/North Saanich**

In March, the library participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Job Fair, which is an opportunity for youth aged 13 to 29 to connect with potential employers and employment resources in their community. There was great interest in the page positions at the library. Customer Services Librarian Virginia MacLeod spoke with over 80 young adults and made some great connections with our community partners. In April, Library Manager Sharon Walker attended the Children Count Early Childhood Education Fair at Brentwood Elementary School. Families were interested to learn about the many services the library has to offer. Sharon promoted our kindergarten kits and gave parents a "My Kindergarten Year" package. Parents were very excited to receive the information and hear about the kits.

Library staff were invited to attend the "Time to Connect: Reading Circle offered by a local child and family services agency supporting First Nations families on the Saanich Peninsula. Information about early literacy and our many resources for families was shared.

## **Sooke**

In March, in addition to regular children's programming, the branch offered two spring break sessions for preschoolers and school-aged students. Local media and community organizations helped promote these popular programs. During spring break week many school-aged customers visited the branch to register for their first library card. Library Manager Adrienne Wass gave a presentation about VIRL's literacy and kindergarten kits to the Rotary Club of Sooke. The Club supports literacy, school libraries, and has a new literacy committee.

In April, in celebration of National Poetry Month, the Sooke, Port Alberni, Cowichan and Sidney branches offered a unique poetry program that became a memorable experience for everyone who participated. "Bring a Story, Get a Poem saw customers invited to meet one-on-one with award-winning poet Wendy Morton to tell her about themselves. She then created a personal poem for each participant to take home.