

From the Board Table

Vancouver Island Regional Library

February 9, 2013



Executive Committee elected for 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees was held on February 9, 2013. The Executive Committee, which consists of 11 members (Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair and eight members-at-large), was elected.



Chair

Bruce Jolliffe (Comox Valley Regional District)

Vice-Chair

Brenda Leigh (Strathcona Regional District)

Past-Chair

Ronna-Rae Leonard (Courtenay)

Members-at-Large

Joe Bratkowski (Lantzville)

Penny Cote (Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District)

Mel Dorey (Cowichan Valley Regional District)

George Holme (Nanaimo Regional District)

Ron Kerr (Campbell River)

Sue Powell (Parksville)

Dave Rushton (Mount Waddington Regional District)

Gaby Wickstrom (Port McNeill)



Trustee Orientation

Trustees were given a comprehensive orientation to the regional library system and their role as trustees. Senior staff provided the Trustees with an overview of their respective portfolios and exempt management staff was introduced.



Facilities Update

Campbell River Branch

In 2012, Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno and Director of Finance Adrian Maas made presentations to both the Strathcona Regional District and Campbell River City Council on the options for financing regional library facilities. Staff of the City of Campbell River have advised that their 2013 budget includes funding for a planning exercise to take place later this year.



Chemainus Branch

After public input from many residents of Chemainus, the Municipality of North Cowichan reconsidered their decision to locate the new branch in the parking lot of Waterwheel Park. The Municipality has stated they wish to locate the library on the site of the former fire hall. Vancouver Island Regional Library Board awaits confirmation in writing regarding the preferred site and whether the land will be donated in a clean and ready state.



VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY

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. Vancouver Island Regional Library is waiting for the Strathcona Regional District to approve a zoning bylaw which will rezone the land on which the former Linnaea School sits to allow for the operation of a library in the Roque Room of the former school. First and second readings are anticipated for February 28, 2013 with a public hearing to follow.

Cowichan Lake Branch

Work began in mid-January on preparing the site for construction of the new branch. The branch will be located near the corner of South Shore Road and Renfrew Avenue. Heatherbrae Construction is the general contractor. A "shovels in the ground" photo op took place at the site on January 30, 2013. Trustees Bob Day (representing the Town of Lake Cowichan), Mel Dorey (representing the Cowichan Valley Regional District), Ross Forrest, Mayor of Lake Cowichan, and Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director of Vancouver Island Regional Library participated. Photos can be viewed at www.virl.bc.ca (About Us/Construction Projects). 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. It is being built on the old Bickle Gardens property and will front onto Dunsmuir Avenue. The building will follow the heritage design guidelines of the Village of Cumberland. The Cumberland Branch is anticipated to open its doors late in 2013.

Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

Vancouver Island Regional Library has asked the Regional District of Nanaimo to coordinate borrowing to a maximum amount of \$9.5 million for the purchase and renovation of the Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch. No additional taxes will be paid by the residents of the Regional District of Nanaimo, or any other area due to this loan. There will be no net increase in costs because the debt will be paid by the savings Vancouver Island Regional Library gains by no longer paying rent on the building. The purchase of the Branch will also provide a small amount of revenue to Vancouver Island Regional Library as part of the building is rented out. Over time this purchase will increase the library's equity on average \$380,000 per year, and in the long term will greatly reduce costs. The Regional District of Nanaimo has confirmed they will be advertising the opportunity for elector responses in relation to the borrowing beginning February 28, 2013. The Regional District of Nanaimo has established a time of no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 for elector response.

Nanaimo North Branch

Work began on our new Nanaimo North Branch in early February 2013. Century Group Inc. is the general contractor. This construction project includes partial demolition of the existing building that used to house the administrative staff of Vancouver Island Regional Library; renovations to the portion of the building remaining; and the addition of a new 17,600 square foot library space to the renovated building. A "shovels in the ground" photo op took place at the site on February 7, 2013. Board Chair Ronna-Rae Leonard, Trustees George Holme (representing the Regional District of Nanaimo), Diane Brennan (representing the City of Nanaimo), and Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director of Vancouver

Island Regional Library participated. Photos can be viewed at www.virl.bc.ca (About Us/Construction Projects). The Nanaimo North Branch will serve residents in north Nanaimo, Lantzville and Nanoose and is anticipated to open in the late spring of 2014.

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 summer of 2013.

Interim Finance Report

The Director of Finance provided trustees with the Interim Finance Report with results to December 2012. Trustees learned that the organization's finances are in a good position. A final audited Financial Report will be presented at the June 2013 Board meeting.

Reserves Report

The Director of Finance provided trustees with the Reserves Report. Trustees receive an updated Reserves Report at each Board meeting. The report shows all activity in the reserves for the year to date of the preparation. The Reserves Report illustrates the ability of Vancouver Island Regional Library to meet its long term planning objectives.

Performance Indicators

At each Board meeting a number of performance indicators are shared with trustees to highlight the many activities that take place in the 38 branches of Vancouver Island Regional Library. In 2012:

- Our branches were visited over 2.6 million times
- Our customers borrowed almost 4.7 million items
- Our librarians were asked for information over 66,000 times
- Our public internet stations were used over 360,000 times
- Children used our children's literacy stations over 46,000 times
- Our librarians offered almost 3,000 free programs attended by over 60,000 people
- Visitors to our branches increased almost 14%
- Our online renewals jumped by 58%
- Our database use jumped by 142%
- Our programming increased by 24%

Your public library ... your community gathering place.

Branch Activities

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

Bowser Branch

In November, a Bowser writer asked if a writer's group could meet at the branch so that local aspiring authors could meet and gauge interest in an ongoing group. Writers in Qualicum Beach and the Comox Valley heard about the event and came out to support the Bowser writers. The Qualicum and Comox Valley groups had been unaware of each other's existence and were thrilled to meet. The outcome for the Bowser writers was a group of seven who decided to continue meeting on a regular basis.

The branch participated in the community's Moonlight Festival for the first time, hosting local musicians for a jam session. While some customers browsed and checked out items, others played a variety of instruments and sang. Sixty-five people were in and out over the course of the event.

Local knitters have started meeting weekly at the library, exploring patterns from the wonderful collections of knitting books and magazines.

Campbell River Branch

In November, a group of twenty motivated seniors took part in a workshop on writing memoirs, led by a professional consultant on aging. More people were interested in attending than could be accommodated, so the workshop may be offered again.

Author Van Clayton Powel made a return trip to the branch speaking to over 70 people about his book *You are NOT What You Eat*.

The introduction to eBooks sessions continue to be very popular with waiting lists for upcoming sessions.

Courtenay Branch

The City of Courtenay is currently working to re-carpet the majority of the public areas and offices in the branch. A new large screen TV and mobile stand has been bought with funds donated by Courtenay customers and will be used for in-branch promotion and customer programming.

Cowichan Branch

Victoria author Michael Losier offered a workshop to 23 enthusiastic customers in November. His book *The Law of Attraction: The Science of Attracting More of What you Want and Less of What you Don't* has sold more than 1 million copies worldwide.

Through a partnership with the Duncan Family History Society, 35 library customers have taken advantage of two genealogy workshops *Researching on a Shoestring* and *Google for Granny*.

The Regional Affordable Housing Directorate approached the branch to ask if it would be willing to host the Ready to Rent program. This program is offered with the support of the Hiiye'yu Lelum Society (House of Friendship, Duncan). Over the month of November, 63 people participated in the Ready to Rent program, as well as hearing about the various programs and services offered by VIRL.

Gabriola Island Branch

Gabriola Island Friends of the Library were pleased to bring bestselling Toronto-based writer Lilian Nattel to the island in November to read from her 2012 novel *Web of Angels*. Nearly 40 people attended this first public reading held at the renovated and expanded branch.

Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

The branch celebrated the holiday season in December with *A Harbourfront Christmas*. Children and parents made crafts and listened to a dramatic telling of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, with delighted audience members playing the parts of the Grinch, Max and Cindy Lou Who. The celebration also included live music and a family carolling session.

Over 200 people attended many adult events at the branch during November. Of particular note was a Pain Management event that attracted a large crowd and a series of very successful book launches.

Nanaimo Wellington Branch

The Friends of the Wellington Library decorated the branch for Christmas. Their creativity and energy is appreciated by customers and staff alike. Customer Services Librarian Julie Carter has been busy launching the Reading Link Challenge program in several of the elementary schools.

One-on-one instruction and group eBook sessions continue to be very popular with many customers asking for assistance with their devices.

Parksville Branch

Several babytime and storytime sessions were held in December. In a Christmas contest children decorated a picture of a Christmas tree for a chance to be entered into a draw for a book prize. The National Reading Campaign's "What did you read today" contest was held in the Parksville and Bowser branches. Customer Services Librarian Melissa Legacy tweeted entries to the contest.

Many students taking distance education courses use public libraries to write exams. The librarians recently proctored thirteen exams at the branch. Four school and preschool classes came for library visits, introducing 69 children to their local public library.

Port Alberni Branch

November was a month full of children's programming with Babytime and Storytime. Customer Services Librarian Maggie Hodge Kwan visited all of the classes at 8th Avenue Elementary School and the kindergarten classes at Alberni Elementary, sharing a story and answering questions about the library. Children who did not have library cards were registered. Maquinna Elementary School kindergarten students visited the branch, along with the Grade 3 and 4 classes from John Paul II Elementary School.

Gary Kent and Kim La Fave, author and illustrator of *Fishing with Gubby*, paid a visit to the branch to talk about their book and hold a drawing workshop. The John Paul II students were thrilled to draw their own book illustrations.

Port Alice Branch

Community Support Technician Indira Wickremasinghe visited schools in Port Hardy, Port McNeill and Sointula to showcase Vancouver Island Regional Library's Homework Help online materials and resources.

Port Hardy Branch

Port Hardy's Dad's night out program called Dad's Night Out (but Moms can come too), continues to be very popular. The first Thursday of each month the staff presents an evening of games, crafts, and fun based around a theme. The program gives parents, who may not have had a chance to visit the library as a family during the day, an opportunity to learn about library services and programs.

Port McNeill Branch

Circulation Supervisor Roberta Day offers Pajama Storytime the first Tuesday of every month. Children are encouraged to visit the library in their pajamas for a special, themed storytime. The program gives parents, who may not have had a chance to visit the library as a family during the day, an opportunity to learn about library services and programs.

The local Girl Guides Pathfinders troop toured the branch and learned about Vancouver Island Regional Library's Homework Help online materials and resources.

Port Renfrew Branch

During the poor weather in December, the branch saw more adult visitors. School children enjoyed holiday books and seasonal decorations. On December 20, the Port Renfrew Elementary School was closed due to weather conditions and loss of power. However, the library (which is located in the school) remained open thanks to the extra efforts of Circulation Coordinator Anne Tremblay.

Late last year the branch launched its Climate Action to Go Kit. The Kit contains practical tools to measure household energy use and offers a selection of diverse resources for residents across the Capital Regional District.

Qualicum Beach Branch

Staff has been busy promoting Vancouver Island Regional Library's Homework Help online materials and resources and Literacy Kits to local groups. Over the Christmas season library staff and volunteers read Christmas stories to over 800 children and adults at Milner Gardens Christmas Magic evenings.

Staff is offering Tech Thursdays once a week in partnership with the local organization *Building Learning Together*. Staff helps library customers with a wide range of computer questions – from how to download eBooks to teaching seniors about Facebook privacy settings. Staff also created two National Reading Campaign displays – one in the children's section and one in the adult fiction area. Customers enjoyed reading book suggestions from others in the community.

Sidney/North Saanich Branch

Grade 8 students for the North Saanich Middle School enjoyed a visit to the branch and learned about the newest digital resources and programming for teens. Eleven classes from Sidney Elementary School also visited the branch, learned about library services, listened to a story and borrowed a book to take home.

The Friends of the Library had another successful year and raised over \$900 at their book sale. They also hosted, with a local landscape architect, an entertaining presentation on how to structure your garden to create beautiful outdoor rooms. This event, along with an author reading by Anny Scoones about Glamorgan Farm, a heritage farm in North Saanich, raised nearly \$800. The branch bought new, colourful and kid-friendly furnishings for the youth section with the money raised.

Sooke Branch

The branch underwent minor renovations which increased much-needed study space for customers, and increased access to electrical outlets for the branch's many laptop users. The collection was reviewed and space was made for the high-demand subject areas of knitting, sewing and crafting.

The branch launched its Climate Action to Go Kit. The Kit contains practical tools to measure household energy use and offers a selection of diverse resources for residents across the Capital Regional District.

The branch's first Pajama Storytime was a hit with children and caregivers dressing in their pajamas and kids bringing their favourite "stuffy". This evening event is a chance for parents who normally work during the day to participate in a bedtime-themed storytime with their child.

South Cowichan Branch

Customers of all ages eagerly participated in the National Reading Campaign by letting staff know what they were reading today! A regular library user made a donation to the branch, saying she doesn't what she would do without the library, since the loss of her sight.

Customers snapped up crafts, novels, cookbooks and music CDs during the Christmas season and decorated the branch's popular Christmas tree with the names of their favourite books.

Trustee comments about branch programs and events

Trustee Mel Dorey from the Cowichan Valley Regional District ended the meeting by taking a few minutes to show his appreciation for all of the activities, events and programs happening at Vancouver Island Regional Library branches. He mentioned the Branch Activities Report which is shared with trustees at each meeting, and What's Happening @ your library, VIRLs program and events guide which is published quarterly for all library customers. Trustee Dorey recognized the amount of work done by library staff and the wide variety of programs that are offered at branches throughout our service area.

Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees 2013

Executive Committee

Chair:	Bruce Jolliffe
Vice Chair:	Brenda Leigh
Past Chair:	Ronna-Rae Leonard
Members at Large:	Penny Cote, Mel Dorey, Joe Bratkowski, Dave Rushton, Sue Powell, George Holme, Ron Kerr, Gaby Wickstrom

Board of Trustees

Municipalities	Member	Alternate
Campbell River	Ron Kerr	Andy Adams
Comox	Hugh MacKinnon	Patti Fletcher
Courtenay	Ronna-Rae Leonard	Manno Theos
Cumberland	Kate Greening	Gwyn Sproule
Duncan	Tom Duncan	Martin Barker
Gold River	Gordon Waterman	Kirsty Begon
Ladysmith	Steve Arnett	Glenda Patterson
Lake Cowichan	Bob Day	Franklin Hornbrook
Lantzville	Joe Bratkowski	Jennifer Millbank
Masset	Andrew Merilees	
Nanaimo	Diane Brennan	George Anderson
North Cowichan	Kate Marsh	John Koury
North Saanich	Elsie McMurphy	Ted Daly
Parksville	Sue Powell	Bill Nuefeld
Port Alberni	Wendy Kerr	Rob Cole
Port Alice	Jan Allen	Janice Macleod
Port Clements	Wally Cheer	Kazamir Falconbridge
Port Hardy	Nikki Shaw	Bev Parnham
Port McNeill	Gaby Wickstrom	Shirley Ackland
Qualicum Beach	Bill Luchtmeijer	Scott Tanner
Queen Charlotte	Greg Martin	Ellen Cranston
Sayward	Diane Mason	Norm Kirschner
Sidney	Melissa Hailey	Steve Price
Sooke	Kerrie Reay	Herb Haldane
Tahsis	Brenda Overton	Randolph Taylor
Tofino	Allen Anderson	Dorothy Baert
Ucluelet	Randy Oliwa	Geoff Lyons
Zeballos	Debra Morin Brown	Julie Colborne

Regional District	Member	Alternate
Alberni-Clayoquot	Penny Cote	Eric Geall
Capital	Mike Hicks	Wally Vowles
Central Coast	Cathi McCullagh	Ivan Tallio
Comox Valley	Bruce Jolliffe	Jim Gillis
Cowichan Valley	Mel Dorey	Loren Duncan
Mount Waddington	Dave Rushton	Andrew Hory
Nanaimo	George Holme	Howard Houle
Powell River	Merrick Anderson	Laurence Fisher
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	Evan Putterill	
Strathcona	Brenda Leigh	Noba Anderson