



# from the Board Table

## 2014 in Review

On January 24th, 2015, Vancouver Island Regional Library staff members and the Board of Trustees convened for the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The “2014 Year in Review” and key performance indicators were presented, as well as a 2014 Finance report. The Board also welcomed 18 new trustees and elected new and standing members to the 2015 Executive Committee, Chair and Vice-Chair. In whole, 2014 marked a terrific year of programs geared towards staff and the community, with impacts that support both the strategic vision of the Board and the mandate of our library system.

## New Strategic Plan



In 2014, VIRL embarked on a series of projects that underpin its five-year Strategic Plan, approved by the Board in 2011. Now in its final year of deployment, VIRL reflects on the achievements of 2014 and looks forward to the new strategic planning operation taking place in 2015.



*Computer Stations: Nanaimo North Branch*

# 2014 Highlights

Vancouver Island Regional Library has executed its 5-year Strategic Plan (2011-2015) based on the pillars of Collection, Communications, Facilities and Operations, Information Technology and the Delivery of Quality Service. Before embarking on a new adventure, below is a review of accomplishments in 2014 across our system.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 82,000 people at our programs
- 2 4,700 programs presented
- 3 5,300,000 total circulation
- 4 10 items signed out every minute
- 5 2,650,000 visits - or 300 people every hour of every day!

## Achievements in 2014 include:

1. Early literacy kindergarten outreach
2. Children's membership card campaign
3. New system-wide programs
4. Increased community partnerships
5. Improved performance measures
6. Creating inspiring spaces for lifelong learning
7. Increased staff training and development opportunities





# Libraries in the Digital Age

To shed light on libraries in the digital age, Vancouver Island Regional Library hosted presentations on the subject of eBooks, information technology and the new role libraries play today.



“Very few communities are not touched by a public library.”

-Justin Grimes  
Institute of Museum and Library  
Services

## The Facts

- **81%**: “Libraries provide services hard to find elsewhere in the community.”
- **94%**: “A public library improves the quality of life in a community.”
- **95%**: “Libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.”
- **40%** of BC adults have difficulty reading a newspaper, filling out a work application form, reading a map, or understanding a lease.
- **1%** increase in literacy levels would raise Canada’s productivity by 2.5%, an estimated \$32 billion boost to our annual GDP.
- **WiFi** has become a hallmark of library service, with 98.7% of all service points around the province offering wireless Internet services. Demand for the service continues to rise exponentially – 50% since 2012 and 650% in the last five years.

# Finance

## Finance Report

**Balance Sheet:** The balance sheet of \$30.9 million shows a healthy balance of cash and investments.

**Summary:** While the year-end process requires further adjustments into the New Year, the current year position is sustainable.

**Revenue and Expenditures:** Significant items affecting the current position of \$946,126 include: Revenues were generally in line with expectations with the exception of draws on the reserves for projects that have now been rescheduled to 2015. Similarly expenditures were lower than expected due to the timelines for these projects being pushed back as well as some internal savings of wages and benefits.

**Summary:** Taking all items into account, VIRL's operations are in a good position and will complete the year in a more positive position than originally budgeted.

## Reserves Report

The Board of Trustees is provided with updated Reserves information at each meeting. At the end of December, the reserves show a \$4.2 million balance. The only item drawn from reserves in 2014 has been for materials due to the opening of Nanaimo North facility in June, 2014.

**Summary:** The reserves are healthy and continuing to grow following draws in previous years due to large-scale project funding.

## Facilities Update

**North Cowichan/Chemainus:** VIRL is awaiting further confirmation of the direction from North Cowichan.

**Sooke/Juan de Fuca:** VIRL is awaiting further confirmation from the Town of Sooke.

**Sidney/North Saanich:** VIRL currently is awaiting feedback from Sidney/North Saanich with respect to land provisions.

**Campbell River:** The Campbell River branch is currently being revitalized with internal branch improvements, including new paint and furniture, in 2015.

**Nanaimo Harbourfront:** The renovations of Nanaimo Harbourfront have been planned and are expected to begin in the spring, 2015.

**Tofino:** A feasibility study has been conducted and pre-planning is being considered.

**Tahsis:** VIRL is awaiting an engineering report be conducted of the current Tahsis branch. VIRL staff continues to develop a plan that blends the branch, books by mail and eLibrary resources into a viable solution for the Village of Tahsis community.

**Port Hardy:** The planning process has begun for the revitalization of the Port Hardy branch. A public consultation is being scheduled in the immediate future.

“VIRL’s  
position for the  
current year is  
sustainable.”

-Steve Hurcombe  
Divisional Manager, Finance



# Board Updates: Officers



## Board Chair

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2009 by the Comox Valley Regional District, Bruce has served on the VIRL Board and Executive Committee since 2010. Bruce has been re-elected in 2015, making this his third year as Board Chair.



## Vice-Chair

Appointed to the Board of Trustees and representing the Strathcona Regional District, Brenda has served on the VIRL Board from 1994-1997 and from 2008-present. Brenda has been re-elected in 2015, making this her third year as Board Vice-Chair.



## 2015 Executive Committee

**Members at Large (from left to right):** Penny Cote, Tom Duncan, Ron Kerr, Steve Arnett, Barry Avis, Brenda Leigh, Bruce Jolliffe, Rosemary Bonanno, Dave Rushton, Diane Brennan, Gordon Waterman and Bill Beldessi (not pictured).

# Board Updates: Trustees

---

With the 2014 elections, the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees welcomed 20 returning members and 18 new faces to the 38-member Board.

## Ron Kerr

City of Campbell River

## Tom Duncan

City of Duncan

## Gordon Waterman

Village of Gold River

## Steve Arnett

Town of Ladysmith

## Diane Brennan

City of Nanaimo

## Jan Allen

Village of Port Alice

## Greg Martin

Village of Queen Charlotte

## Kerrie Reay

District of Sooke

## Al Anderson

District of Tofino

## Andrew Merilees

Village of Masset

## Debra Brown

Village of Zeballos

## Penny Cote

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## Mike Hicks

Capital Regional District

## Cathi McCullagh

Central Coast Regional District

## Bruce Jolliffe

Comox Valley Regional District

## Mary Marcotte

Cowichan Valley Regional District

## Dave Rushton

Regional District of Mount Waddington

## Howard Houle

Regional District of Nanaimo

## Merrick Anderson

Powell River Regional District

## Brenda Leigh

Strathcona Regional District



# Board Updates: New Trustees

---

We welcome the following new Trustees to the Board:

**Marg Grant**

Town of Comox

**Rebecca Lennox**

City of Courtenay

**Sean Sullivan**

Village of Cumberland

**Lorna Dawn Vomacka**

Town of Lake Cowichan

**Rod Negrave**

District of Lantzville

**Rob Douglas**

Municipality of North Cowichan

**Murray Weisenberger**

District of North Saanich

**Mary Beil**

City of Parksville

**Sharie Minions**

City of Port Alberni

**Christine Cunningham**

Village of Port Clements

**Jessie Hemphill**

District of Port Hardy

**Jay Dixon**

Town of Port McNeill

**Barry Avis**

Town of Qualicum Beach

**Janett Hoare**

Village of Sayward

**Erin Bremner**

Town of Sidney

**Randy Taylor**

Village of Tahsis

**Marilyn McEwen**

District of Ucluelet

**Bill Beldessi**

Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District