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from the Board Table

Business Arising

BC Ferries Service Reductions

VIRL serves 430,000 people on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii and the Central Coast (Bella Coola) through 38 branch libraries, including a Books-by-Mail service, as well as participates in a nation-wide interlibrary loan program with other Canadian libraries.

BC Ferries has announced a number of reductions in ferry service on its minor and northern routes as part of an initiative to save \$19 million. The proposed changes are expected to be implemented between April 2014 and April 2016 and will impact several communities to which VIRL provides service.

With VIRL communities and service model dependent on ferry service, the VIRL Board is concerned about any reductions in service.





Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

Fundraising Support

The Vancouver Island Regional Library is the fourth largest library system in British Columbia. The funding of the VIRL system and its many programs and services is derived from a variety of sources, including donations and sponsorships. Many don't know that VIRL is a registered charity and able to issue tax deductible receipts. Donating is an excellent way to assist your Library.

How VIRL fundraises:

1

Branches provide tax receipts (for donations over \$10)

2

Provides different ways to give to your library:

- Planned giving
- canadahelps.org
- Friends of the Library groups
- At the branch
- virl.bc.ca/support

3

Promoting and actively participating in fundraising:

- "Support Your Library" brochure
- Soliciting community organizations towards cooperative sponsorship opportunities
- Seeking partnerships with not-for-profit groups and commercial organizations
- Applying for grants and advertised sponsorship opportunities



Learn more: virl.bc.ca/support

Facilities Update

Cortes Island

The Cortes Island branch is now open! The new branch features a fresh, pleasant space with internet stations and an expanded collection. Come join us for a celebration of the Cortes Island branch on April 25th at 1:00 PM!

Nanaimo North

Construction is well underway, with drywall nearing completion, interior painting begun, electrical nearly complete, and interior finishes and landscaping underway. Everyone involved in the project is anticipating an official opening in early summer! The new 17,600 square foot library will offer the community:

- Flexible meeting rooms
- Kid's programming areas, IT-equipped group meeting rooms ideal for business-use and any other appropriate activities
- comfortable and quiet places for reading and study
- a designated children's area with educational, fun-filled software and equipment that promotes literacy
- free wireless Internet access
- public computers with Internet access, word processing and other software
- a great, huge collection of new books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines – as well as classics

Sooke

Sooke has conveyed to the Board that they wish to move ahead, and a meeting with the Capital Regional District staff concluded that Sooke council will provide more information. The CRD staff have also been provided with background information on setting up a borrowing model which may benefit both Sooke and Sidney/North Saanich.



“Nanaimo North
will be a great
addition to the
library system.”

Facilities Update cont.



Nanaimo Harbourfront, Main Atrium

North Cowichan

Discussions with the Municipality of North Cowichan have led to two site options: a multi-use facility or standalone option. VIRL awaits North Cowichan's decision before proceeding with further planning.

Sidney/North Saanich

After a meeting with Council on Oct. 21st, VIRL awaits feedback from Sidney Town Council on a potential outcome. A request to support the borrowing model was made so that VIRL stands a better opportunity to meet the needs and desires of its member jurisdictions.

Campbell River

Due to funding considerations, internal branch improvements are being considered and interior painting improvements tentatively included in the City's budget.

Nanaimo Harbourfront

Scope of renovations following purchase is being planned. With funding confirmed project planning can continue.

Tofino

VIRL staff have met with Tofino's CAO to discuss project parameters in response to a Civic Centre feasibility study in which the Tofino District hopes to include a library within its plan.

Tahsis

VIRL staff are planning a site visit in April.

Port Hardy

As a part of the 2014 budget, Port Hardy will be reviewed and a plan developed for its improvement. The branch's size meets established standards.



Nanaimo Harbourfront - Central Staircase

New Business

Shaw Grant Funding

VIRL has received a grant from the Shaw Family in the amount of \$25,000. The funds will go towards technology innovations and improvements of three meeting rooms at the Nanaimo North branch. The improvements will facilitate programming, presentations, collaboration and general use of the spaces at Nanaimo North.

CLA Conference

VIRL will be attending and presenting at the Canadian Libraries Association conference in Victoria, BC on May 30 - 31, 2014. Presenting "Safe Library Spaces: Getting By With a Little Help From Our Friends", Nanaimo North Library Manager, Stephen R. Warren will present on the subject of understanding as a tool for dealing with difficult customers and examining best practices for resolving challenging situations. For more information, visit <http://www2.cla.ca/sessions/show.php?id=164>.

HIGHLIGHTS

The beginning of 2014 has been a busy quarter, with revised performance indicators, branch activities reports and excellent media exposure.

- 1 UPDATED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- 2 NEW BRANCH ACTIVITIES REPORTS
- 3 EXCELLENT MEDIA EXPOSURE

Marsh lauds VIRL's versatility



eBooks may be the future but physical libraries will still serve an important function in communities as technology advances over time.

According to Vancouver Island Regional Library, its members download more than 600 eBooks every day but of those tech savvy members, 88 per cent are still hooked on printed books as well.

For that reason and more, libraries still serve a vital purpose, councillor Kate Marsh told the rest of North Cowichan council.

Marsh is the municipality's representative on the VIRL board of trustees.

Libraries are not just a place of refuge to quietly browse collections anymore, but are becoming a technological gateway and community hub for many as well, she explained.

"A membership to VIRL gets you access to close to a

million items," Marsh said. "There is free Wi-Fi at every VIRL branch...you're able to search online databases for information...and you're able to request things from other branches." That's just the tip of the iceberg. "People can attend a variety of free programs from story hour for toddlers, to newcomer settlement services and everything in between. You can learn to knit, go to a movie screening, learn puppet making, chess, genealogy, learn Spanish, open mic readings..." she said. "I could go on and on."

Membership increased upwards of 14 per cent in 2013.

"The mission of VIRL is to enrich the lives of communities through the universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning and literacy by developing strong branches that are vital community hubs for knowledge, inspiration, innovation and renewal," Marsh said.

And, if the current offerings weren't enough, on Feb. 14 VIRL announced a new digital service enabling library card-holders to borrow video, music and audiobooks via their computer, smartphone or tablet.

"The new service, called hoopla, offers thousands of movie titles, television shows, educational/instructional videos, documentaries, music and audiobooks - all accessible online," said a release issued Valentine's Day.

Vancouver Island Regional Library cardholders can access hoopla through www.virl.bc.ca by clicking on the hoopla link. Users will be asked to sign into hoopla with their library card and PIN and create a hoopla account.

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IN THE MEDIA:

- Nanaimo Clippers help children score with reading
- Hot reads for cold nights
- Three young locals up for Island's Top 20 Under 40 career achievement awards
- Family Literacy Day
- Port-Fukushima, author inspired to re-write parts of award-winning book
- Vancouver Island Regional Library board elected
- Black inventors are main theme of this year's Black History Month
- Explore creativity through mail
- Library offers more than just books
- Library landscape changing in Parksville Qualicum Beach
- Per student funding is the issue, says Qualicum school board chair
- Good works by Rotarians - Parksville Qualicum Beach clubs have global origins
- Library seeking adventurous teens
- Here's why public libraries do what they do
- Library launches teen tech week
- Bella Coola Library showcases local naturalist extensive collection