



from the Board Table

Intro

On May 27, the Board of Trustees met for their second regular meeting of the year. The Board received information from Vancouver Island Regional Library's (VIRL) Director of Finance about the 2016 Audited Financial Statements, including a presentation from the Auditor. The Board received proposed revisions to the Board Procedural By-Law, including revisions to the Public Delegation Policy. These revisions passed first, second, and third reading, with final review and adoption scheduled for the September Board meeting. In addition, the Board received a report with highlights from the Branch Activity Reports and Key Performance Indicators. Financial updates also included a report on VIRL's finances and reserves, a Facilities update, and a report on hazardous materials regulations. New business included a staff presentation on a community-wide reading and reconciliation program on Gabriola Island, 2018 budget assumptions, the 2016 Annual Report, and information technology (IT) security upgrades.

Read Down Your Fines



This year, Read Down Your Fines (RDYF) will be offered in conjunction with Summer Reading Club (SRC) 2017. RDYF is a Board approved initiative. The goal is to help children reduce their fines and resume regular library use. Children will have the chance to have \$5 of library fines waived for each SRC Reading Record page they complete. Each child is eligible for a total fine reduction of \$35.



Casey & Finnegan joined VIRL and the community of Hornby Island for the official opening of their new branch!

Finance Report



Haida elder Jiixa has graduated from technology student to tutor at the Queen Charlotte Branch.

Balance Sheet: The balance sheet of \$32.2 million shows a healthy balance of cash and investments of \$6.4 million at the end of March.

Revenue and Expenditures: The operating deficit as at the end of March of \$644,110 reflects that revenues and expenditures are in line with expectations to date. The deficit reflects annual expenditures which are recognized at the beginning of the year.

Reserves Report: The Board of Trustees is provided with updated reserves information at each meeting. At the end of March, the reserves totalled \$5.2 million. Appropriations to reserves are recorded on a quarterly basis, so 25% have been recognized at the end of March. Included in the results to date is \$574,942 in reserve funded expenditures. Transfers from reserves are recorded when projects have been substantially completed.

In Summary: The current position is sustainable and VIRL's operations are in line with expectations to date.

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Facilities Updates



A new reading nook for the community of Hornby Island.

Chemainus

Plans are moving forward for a new branch for the community of Chemainus. Recently, North Cowichan requested that VIRL staff and VIRL's architect attend a meeting to discuss the potential of combining the library site into a larger project which could include residential and retail space. Based on timing and other factors, VIRL is moving forward with a standalone facility that aligns with North Cowichan's vision for the space. VIRL staff are reviewing the architect's preliminary plans, and will work with the architect to finalize the design. A second public consultation will then be held to introduce the design to the community.

Masset

In 2016, Masset advised VIRL that a parcel of land had been identified and approved for the purpose of building a new branch. VIRL staff are engaging with Masset to discuss the process for moving forward on this project. VIRL staff will be visiting Haida Gwaii at the end of May, in order to review the site and discuss the project with local representatives. Staff will also review the Queen Charlotte and Sandspit locations to determine the scope of potential projects at these branches.

Nanaimo Wellington

The new Nanaimo Wellington branch opened to the public on Tuesday, May 23, and includes a refreshed look and feel, a small study room, new public computers, and other amenities and improvements. An Official Grand Opening ceremony is being planned for Saturday, July 8.

Parksville

Preliminary designs have been provided by the architect and VIRL is reviewing the draft plans. Further direction will be provided.

Tofino

In April, VIRL's Executive Director attended a public open house where three potential sites for a new branch were discussed. VIRL is waiting for input from the municipality and community.

Tahsis

VIRL is currently assessing the impacts of new WorkSafeBC regulations that came into effect on May 1. Details will be provided as they become available.

Facilities Updates cont.



A DIY solar for your home program at the Gabriola Island branch.

Port Alberni

A donation from a member of the Port Alberni community has kick-started a refurbishment effort that will address layout and outstanding maintenance issues. Preliminary designs have been provided by the architect and VIRL is reviewing the draft plans. Further direction will be provided.

Sooke

A public consultation was held in Sooke on May 2. Members from the community asked questions of VIRL staff and were given the opportunity to provide input. VIRL staff are working with the District of Sooke on issues around the lease agreement for the land, permitting, and other items.

Sidney

A public consultation was held in Sidney on March 22 with VIRL staff and the architect on site to answer questions from the community. Feedback from this session will be incorporated into project planning. The building envelope assessment has been prepared, which will help to determine the next steps for the project.

North Saanich

In November 2016, VIRL received a letter from North Saanich in support of transferring land to VIRL for the purpose of constructing a new branch at the Panorama Centre. A public consultation is tentatively scheduled for spring/summer 2017, with the aim of securing a loan through MFA in fall 2017. An alternative approval process will need to occur to support the loan, which will likely occur in summer/fall 2017. North Saanich is working with a surveyor to prepare a subdivision plan, which will determine the final site for the new branch. Preliminary site preparation and design work can commence after the plan is completed.

Woss

VIRL met with representatives from the Regional District of Mount Waddington on March 8, 2017 to discuss a potential partnership between the regional district, School District 85, and other partners to develop the school into a joint-use facility.



Indigenous learning inside the story box - a proram at the Comox branch.

General Updates

Hazardous Materials Regulations: VIRL's Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Director, prepared a report explaining new WorkSafeBC Hazardous Waste Regulations that took effect on May 1, 2017. As part of these new regulations, as an employer, VIRL now shares responsibility with the owner/landlords in any pre-1990 buildings we rent to ensure that an inventory of hazardous materials is completed. This inventory will be used to develop an exposure control plan, which would direct staff how to operate within the space without disturbing the materials. VIRL is working closely with WorkSafeBC to ensure that we are meeting all requirements as an employer. A timeline for completion is still being determined.

2018 Budget Assumptions: While the first draft of the budget is still being prepared for presentation to the Executive Committee in July and August, budget assumptions for the coming year are presented as a high-level summary for information and to garner feedback. In 2010, the Board adopted a Facilities Master Plan which includes regular increases over a 15-year period to fund new construction, address deferred maintenance, and ensure regular upkeep of VIRL's 39 branches. The 2018 budget will be presented at the September 2017 Board meeting for review and approval.

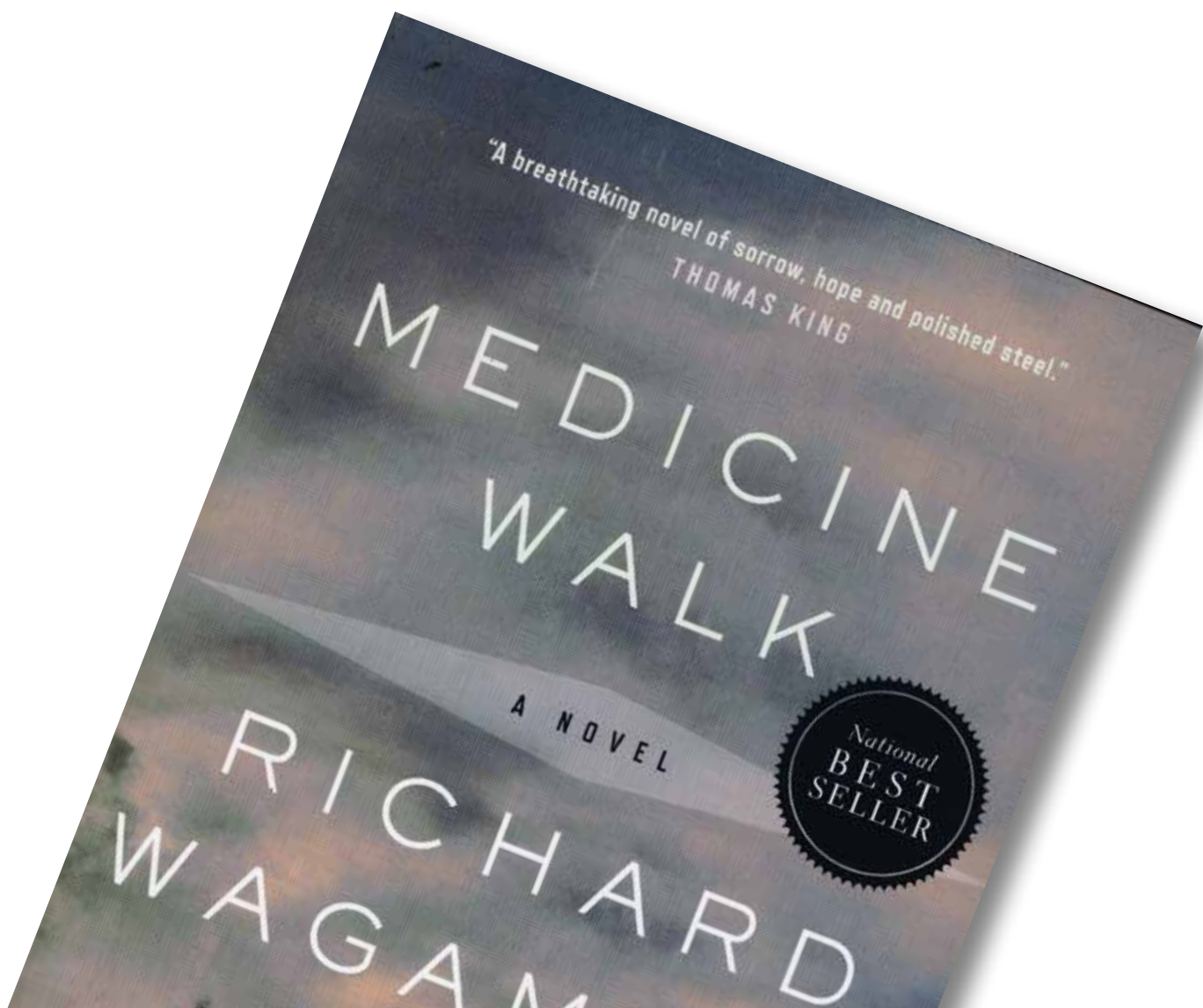


Read more: virl.bc.ca

One Book, One Community.

Reading and Reconciliation on Gabriola Island

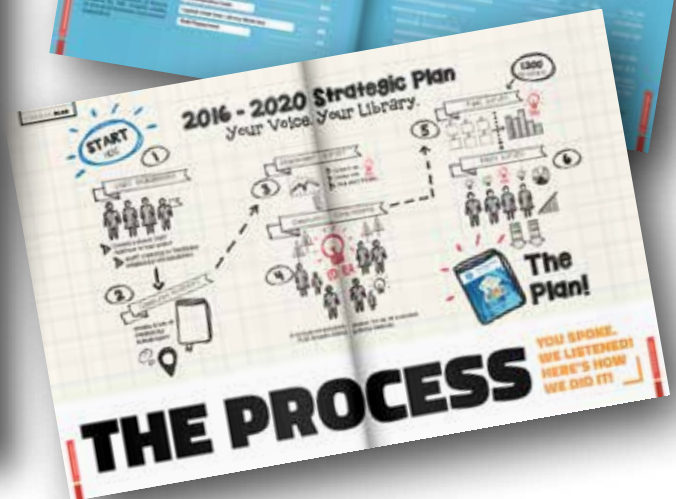
Gabriola Island's One Book, One Community initiative invited Gabriola Islanders to read and discuss Richard Wagamese's *Medicine Walk*. Librarian Amy Dawley shared her experiences with this initiative at the May 27 Board meeting, and spoke of the impacts it had for everyone who participated. In April, a wrap-up event gathered over 100 people for a community conversation. Hosted by Truth and Reconciliation Honourary Witness Shelagh Rogers, the event brought together First Nations authors Monique Gray Smith and Celestine Aleck for a powerful evening of discussion and reflection.





2016 Annual Report

For the 2016 Annual Report, we leveraged the power of storytelling by focusing on instances in which our libraries and staff touched and inspired lives. The theme “libraries inspire” flows through this report, which is built in the style of a magazine with stories, imagery, and page after page of content that people will want to read and engage with. The stories in the Annual Report also reveal some of the ways we are bringing our 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan to reality in branches across our system.



Available mid-June:
virl.bc.ca/reports-and-plans