



from the Board Table

Thank You

For your invaluable contribution to Vancouver Island Regional Library and your community, we extend great thanks.



Brenda Leigh

Brenda Leigh was appointed to the [Board of Trustees](#) in 2008 by the Strathcona Regional District.

Brenda served as Vice-Chair of the Board for four consecutive years. Brenda was also a member of the Executive Committee to the Board, which she has served on since 2010.

Brenda also served as an Executive member for the Comox-Strathcona Regional District from 1994 – 1997 and has represented the new 'Strathcona' Region from 2008 to present.

Brenda's passion about libraries as society's 'great equalizers' has been an invaluable presence on the Board of Trustees and has helped shape and enrich the lives of communities in her Regional District and beyond.

The Board acknowledges and commends Brenda on her term as both Trustee, Executive



Penny Cote

Penny Cote was appointed to the [Board of Trustees](#) in 2008 by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. Penny was also a member of the Executive Committee to the Board, serving a commendable eight-year term. Penny is an instrumental voice for the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and a supporter of the Board's Strategic Plan. Penny's support of VIRL's innovative initiatives, including eLibrary service, has resulted in the delivery of digital resources and new, information technology opportunities that today, complement traditional library services.

During her term, Penny coordinated meetings with the Ministers of Education and Ministry staff to lobby on behalf of VIRL and Canadian Libraries and bringing recognition to the budget and to secure the continuation of grants.

Penny's involvement with the VIRL Board of Trustees has provided unique and sustainable opportunities for VIRL, the community of Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, and the 38 communities VIRL serves.



Nanaimo Harbourfront

It's an Open House!

On November 7th, 2015 the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch [opened its doors](#) to over 500 people in the community to celebrate the newly reopened, and popular, downtown Library.

The refreshed space boasted a tailored collection of books and new titles, improved and expanded public computers, and the highly anticipated [Creativity Commons](#). A first for VIRL, the Creativity Commons offers an imagination and creation space that offers an espresso book-publishing machine (available to the public), Make & Break Lab, Storylab, Genealogy Lab and access to computer programming, sophisticated design software, robotics and so much more!

The redeveloped Nanaimo Harbourfront branch was designed with the downtown community in mind, to offer both a comprehensive collection of materials, including books and magazines, but also leading-edge informational and digital literacy tools never available before. These tools, programs and creativity spaces are ideal for Vancouver Island University students, downtown community organizations including literacy organizations, local educators, local poets, authors and artists, children, teens and everything in between.

As a part of the VIRL Board's [Master Facilities Plan](#), the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch was due for needed repairs. Although budget constraints existed, staff employed some innovative thinking to transform the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch into an even greater destination for the diverse community it serves today - and into the 21st century.

782

VISITORS PER DAY

372,023

TOTAL CIRCULATION

63,818

PUBLIC COMPUTER
SESSIONS

Creativity Commons

Nanaimo Harbourfront

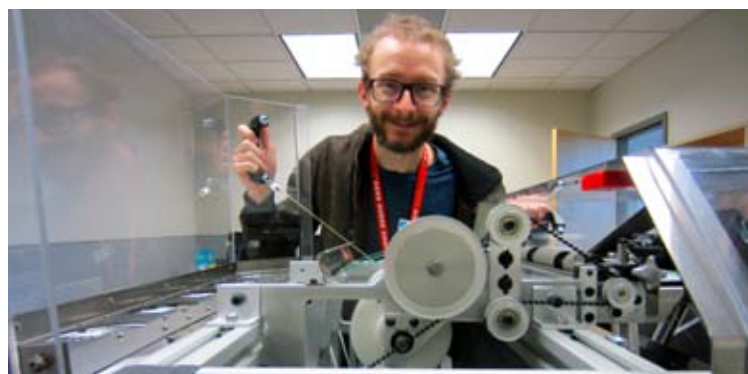


Nanaimo Harbourfront branch has long been a popular destination for those looking to enjoy the magic of books. Now the branch is a place where people can print their own books, program a computer, build an art-bot, find their ancestry, or explore endless possibilities in the custom DIY collection of resources on the second story in the [Creativity Commons](#).

The Creativity Commons was inspired as a collaboration, creativity, imagination and exploration space particularly appealing to writers groups, community organizations, educators, Aboriginal Friendship Centres, students, artists and poets on Vancouver Island.

Writing and creation is a fundamental aspect of literacy and the Creativity Commons further enables VIRL to promote lifelong learning and enrich lives in our communities. The space also features a team of staff, the originators of these programs and Creativity Commons tools, who are on-hand during open hours of the branch to teach, lead and facilitate customers with everything included in the space.

For more information about the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch Creativity Commons, visit us online at virl.bc.ca/creativity-commons today!



Staff trying out the new Espresso (self-publishing) Book Machine



New Items



VIRL's new Integrated Library System (and cat-a-log)

New ILS Launched

On October 14th, VIRL launched a new [Integrated Library System \(ILS\)](#), the software that underpins library operations and VIRL's cornerstone business tool. With it, VIRL staff launched a [new catalogue](#) to customers that would provide the foundation for simpler and easier access to VIRL's collection. The new ILS provides staff with greater tools to manage VIRL's collection and the new catalogue benefits customers with a seamless access to the growing digital resources available to customers. The launch was facilitated by teams responsible for training, testing and deploying the six-month communication plan.

Heart & Stroke

At the November 21st regular meeting, the Board of Trustees received a presentation by the BC and Yukon Heart and Stroke Foundation. The delegation presented the BC Public Access to Defibrillation (PAD) Program, which proposed that Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices be made available at VIRL branches. The program is designed to provide training and equipment (AEDs) to institutions serving the public in an effort to save lives. The Board will receive a report by VIRL staff at the January AGM with further information.

Summer Reading Club

The [Summer Reading Club \(SRC\)](#) is an annual, provincial program sponsored by the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) and local public libraries, with assistance of the Ministry of Education, Libraries and Literacy Branch. VIRL staff and teachers worked together in May and June to promote the summer reading club to as many students as possible. VIRL also initiated the Board-approved "Read Down Your Fines" program, which had incredible impact on the families in our communities who read down their fines and are returning to their Library!

519

Kid's Fines Reduced

52

Kids Fine-Free

5,108

Kids in SRC 2015

13,279

Kids Attended VIRL's Programs

8,952

Kids Reached in Schools

ASK US
ABOUT OUR NEW



VIRL's new Cat-a-Log campaign (ILS Migration 2015)

A New Integrated Library System

“The new ILS
(and public-
facing customer
catalogue) replaced
end-of-life software
while setting
the stage for a
more accessible
eLibrary.”

On October 14th, 2015, VIRL launched a new [Integrated Library System](#) and with it, a new [discovery layer/catalogue](#) to customers. The Integrated Library System (ILS) is the library's operational backbone and the cornerstone that underpins VIRL's business. For customers, it is also the tool that provides a public-facing catalogue - the public access point to VIRL's collection.

In 2014, staff teams identified VIRL's ILS software (and customer catalogue) as nearing end-of-life and in need of updating. Since the ILS underpins VIRL's business, the decision was made to update the software to something that could sustain VIRL operations for the future. Following a comprehensive request for proposals process, VIRL staff found a solution that could not only replace the old ILS software (and accompanying customer catalogue), it offered a foundation on which VIRL's growing digital resources could be improved. The solution is Innovative Interfaces Inc. (iii).

The Benefits

For staff, the new ILS enables VIRL to monitor and improve the stewardship of library resources through better reporting and easier access. Never available before, the new ILS allows for customization at any staff level and an easy, one-module interface which makes work flows more efficient and provides more timely customer service.

For customers, the benefit of the new ILS (or "catalogue") is improved access to [VIRL's eLibrary](#). The new ILS sets the foundation on which a better eLibrary can be built upon. The new catalogue allows for seamless "one-click" downloading of eResources and eBooks that can now be searched in VIRL's online catalogue. Customers can also track their digital resource downloads through their account like never before.



Migration Plan

To facilitate a successful launch of the new ILS software to both customers and staff, an ILS Team and three sub-teams were created. Each team was assigned key responsibilities of the ILS plan to ensure that the migration to the new software was positive. The migration plan included training, customer experience, testing and communications.

Communication Plan

A communication plan was enacted to promote the smooth transition of one catalogue to another for both staff and VIRL's customers. The plan employed timely and purposeful messaging to keep staff and customers informed and engaged in the deployment.

The communication plan also prepared the public for key milestone dates (including migrating data and lists), which required action from customers and assistance by staff. The plan made use of a variety of media, including online (virl.bc.ca), in-branch (tent cards, bookmarks and signage) and print to inform customers of the new features while preparing others for familiar feature changes.

The communications plan employed a comedic "cat-a-log" theme to aid the campaign. The theme was successful in relaying important messages to customers such as upcoming catalogue downtime (the cat-a-log is napping) and new developments (the old 'cat-a-log' is back).

Other key milestones:

July 2015: Staff briefing with an update of timelines and training. Press release to prepare customers for the transition in October (and what it means for them). "Ask Me About the New Cat-a-Log" pins distributed to staff.

August 2015: Support training, catalogue branding and customer and staff feedback (from July press release).

September 2015: Reminder to the public (press release), development of in-branch signage, preparation of website announcements and help sections.

October 2015: Launch (press release), staff communications outlining go-live week and support available.

please excuse us...

our **cat-a-log**
IS **napping**



BOARD UPDATES

2016 Board Schedule

Saturday, January 16	Annual General Meeting
Friday, February 12	Executive Committee – Regular Meeting
Saturday, March 19	Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Friday, April 22	Executive Committee – Regular Meeting
Saturday, May 28	Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Friday, July 8	Executive Committee – Budget Meeting
Friday, August 12	Executive Committee – Budget & Regular Meeting
Saturday, September 17	Board of Trustees – Budget & Regular Meeting
Friday, October 21	Executive Committee – Regular Meeting
Saturday, November 26	Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting

Call for Nominations

Each January at the [Annual General Meeting](#), the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Executive Committee is elected by the Board of Trustees. As per Vancouver Island Regional Library bylaw, the guidelines for nominations are as follows:

By-Law 6: Nominating Committee

Appointments: A nominating committee is appointed by the Chair at the November Board meeting for the purpose of providing a slate of nominees for presentation at the Annual General Meeting for the election of officers and the Executive Committee.

Membership: Members will consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and one member at-large, to be named by the Chair.

Timing: The committee will meet by year's end, prior to the Annual General Meeting. All Trustees wishing to stand for office should be prepared to provide a brief biography for inclusion in the report. In addition to the report of the committee, nominations from the floor of the Annual General Meeting are encouraged.

The [Executive Committee](#) consists of 11 members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair, and eight members at-large. In cases where the Chair and Past Chair is the same person, a ninth member shall be elected. In order to facilitate the nominations process and report from the nominations committee, candidates are requested to complete a nominations form by December 31, 2015.

Would you like to learn more
about the Board of Trustees?

virl.bc.ca/board

