



# from the Board Table

## Thank You...

To our departing Trustees for your contribution to Vancouver Island Regional Library and your community.



### Bruce Jolliffe

Bruce Jolliffe was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2009 by the Comox Valley Regional District where he served eight consecutive years. During that time, Bruce served as representative for the Comox Valley Regional District, and was elected Chair to the Board four years in a row. Bruce also served two years on the Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large.



### Mike Hicks

Mike Hicks was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2009, serving for eight consecutive years. He represented the Capital Regional District.



### Dave Rushton

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2009 by the Regional District of Mount Waddington, Dave Rushton served for eight consecutive years. Dave also served on the Board's Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large for five years.



### Andrew Merilees

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2009 by the Village of Masset in Haida Gwaii, Andrew Merilees served for eight consecutive years. Andrew also served on the Board's Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large in 2016.

# Business Arising



*Taking part in the fun at the Creativity Commons, Nanaimo Harbourfront branch.*

## Electronic Records Management System

At the request of the Executive Committee, VIRL staff reported on the costs to transition to an online document management system for the Board of Trustees. The system would allow Board members to search, retrieve, and view past and current documentation to assist with decision making. Approximately 143,000 hardcopy Board documents and 11,000 electronic records exist, but are not readily accessible to Board members. In early 2017, a Request for Proposals will be let for an Electronic Records Management System.

## Board Reports to the Public

Effective January 2017, full Board meeting agenda packages will be posted to the VIRL public website five business days prior to the regular Board meetings. Following each meeting of the Board, unapproved minutes will also be posted to the website.

## Whistleblower Policy

The VIRL Board is committed to upholding ethical standards in its operations and administration. Effective immediately, the VIRL Board has approved a [Whistleblower Policy](#) which provides a process through which staff can report on serious misconduct without fear of retribution or reprisal. The Whistleblower Policy can be found online at <http://virl.bc.ca>.

# Board Updates

## 2017 Board Schedule

<b>Saturday, January 21</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>Friday, February 17</b>	Executive Committee – Regular Meeting
<b>Saturday, March 18</b>	Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
<b>Friday, April 28</b>	Executive Committee – Regular Meeting
<b>Saturday, May 27</b>	Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
<b>Friday, July 7</b>	Executive Committee – Budget Meeting
<b>Friday, August 18</b>	Executive Committee – Budget & Regular Meeting
<b>Saturday, September 16</b>	Board of Trustees – Budget & Regular Meeting
<b>Friday, October 20</b>	Executive Committee – Regular Meeting
<b>Saturday, November 25</b>	Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting

## Call for Nominations

Each January at the [Annual General Meeting](#), the Board of Trustees elects their Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Committee membership. As per Vancouver Island Regional Library By-Law, 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 the case where there is no Past Chair, a ninth member will be elected.





**We miss you.**

*Let's forget the  
late fees Oct. 23-29...*

Visit your **library** during **Welcome Back Week**  to learn more

## Welcome Back Week 2016

“Having an overdue  
fine can make the  
difference between  
choosing to come  
back to their library  
or not,”

Jamie Anderson

“For those who can’t afford it, having an overdue fine can make the difference between choosing to come back to their library or not,” says Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services and Planning. That kind of thinking encouraged staff at Vancouver Island Regional Library to develop a proposal for an initiative designed to give customers a second chance at accessing the wealth of resources and opportunities their library provides.

### Introducing Welcome Back Week!

Welcome Back Week and similar amnesty initiatives are tried and tested programs that bring people back to their local libraries and materials back into circulation. The program is simple: Between Oct. 23-29, customers could bring back any overdue materials and have all associated fines waived. If customers couldn’t find their materials, they could visit their VIRL branch anyway and staff would pardon up to \$20 off of the customer’s account (no questions asked). Staff could also set customers up on an easy payment plan if it meant being able to borrow again.



*I <3 My Library pins are a part of October Library Month.*

### Why Welcome Back Week

Vancouver Island Regional Library serves a wide variety of customers, including children, youth, seniors and vulnerable populations in the community. According to Anderson: "While overdue fines are a necessary way to ensure materials are available for everybody to use, overdue fines and fees can also have an adverse effect on economically sensitive members in our community."

As a part of VIRL's membership policy, customers with fines or fees in excess of \$10 are prevented from borrowing materials from their library.

At the same time, VIRL is a vital resource for many customers as an access point to public computers, job seeking assistance, printing, tech support, the internet, and of course, access to a huge collection of materials which promote literacy, learning and enrichment.

With October being Canadian Library Month (I <3 Library Month), the opportunity was perfect to host and promote a Welcome Back Week across Vancouver Island Regional Library, encouraging library use, increasing access to literacy in our communities and enriching lives through universal access to knowledge and lifelong learning.

### The Results

A marketing campaign, "Let's forget the late fees" featuring a west-coast theme and tied around "I love my library" reached tens of thousands of customers via social media and outdoor advertising. VIRL's staff contributed significantly to these numbers by handing out coupons to people in the community. In the end, almost 2,000 people were able to borrow again.

More meaningful stories are to come, such as this one from staff: "Most patrons were really appreciative of us waiving their fines. One patron even paid off the \$41 after his initial \$20 was waived. Another who had \$60 left went on the payment plan, but I was surprised when he said he'd do it in \$20 increments."





# GeekCON 2016

A first annual celebration of geek culture drew big crowds to the Nanaimo Harbourfront library branch on Saturday, August 20. Over 300 participants turned out for GeekCON 2016, the first event of its kind in Nanaimo.

The event featured a panel from the gaming industry, a cosplay competition, Magic the Gathering and Minecraft tournaments, Medieval Chaos demo, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child discussion group, book signing by fantasy author Cynthea Masson, live drawing demonstrations from comic artist Ken Steacy, plus a visit by the 501st Legion (Star Wars Cosplay Charity Organization).

“GeekCON is a one-day convention that’s free to the Nanaimo community that celebrates everything geek culture,” says Kaylea Prime, librarian at Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) and program co-organizer.

“These kind of events have exploded over the last ten or fifteen years. Lots of people are looking for venues where they can celebrate what they’re passionate about. Gaming culture, graphic novels, comic books, cosplay...it’s here,” comments Jonathon Bigelow, program co-organizer and librarian at VIRL.

“There are lots of ways that libraries are being a part of modern events – not just a space for books. It’s a place for people to develop their passions, seek information in different ways and bring people together,” says Kaylea.

