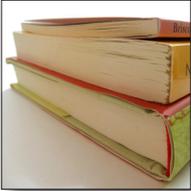


From the Board Table

Vancouver Island Regional Library

November 24, 2012



Facilities Update

Vancouver Island Regional Library's 2010 Consolidated Facilities Master Plan and our Board Facilities Policy inform all of our facility decisions. Our Facilities Policy ensures that our facilities are designed to best meet community needs. Facility development is guided by the companion report (approved by our Board in June 2010) to our Consolidated Facilities Master Plan. A long-term funding plan for our facilities was approved by our trustees in June 2010 and put into effect with our subsequent budgets. The Consolidated Facilities Master Plan is available on our website (www.virl.bc.ca) under About Us/Reports & Plans.



Cortes Island Branch

In September, trustees voted to enter into a lease agreement subject to certain conditions being met with the Linnaea Farm Society for the operation of a library in the Roque Room of the former Linnaea School. Vancouver Island Regional Library and Linnaea Farm Society are currently waiting for the Strathcona Regional District to approve a rezoning bylaw which will rezone the land for use as a library. At a meeting on Cortes Island on November 14, members of the Cortes Island Advisory Planning Commission passed a motion recommending approval of the (zoning) application to add PL (public assembly) to ALS1.



Cowichan Lake Branch

The original bids in response to the first call for tenders in September 2012 came in significantly over budget. The architect adjusted the scope of the project and it was retendered in November. Trustees voted to award construction of the new branch to Heatherbrae Construction for a maximum award value not to exceed \$1,000,487 (plus tax).



Chemainus Branch

After public input from many residents of Chemainus, the Municipality of North Cowichan reconsidered their decision to locate the new branch in the parking lot of Waterwheel Park. The Municipality has stated they wish to locate the library on the site of the former fire hall. Vancouver Island Regional Library awaits confirmation in writing regarding the preferred site and whether the land will be donated.



Nanaimo North Branch

Trustees awarded Century Group Inc. of Victoria, the tender to build the Nanaimo North Library Branch to be located at 6250 Hammond Bay Road in Nanaimo. The total project budget is just over \$8.6 million.



The construction project includes partial demolition of the existing building that houses the administrative staff of Vancouver Island Regional Library, renovations to the portion of the building remaining, and the addition of a new 17,600 square foot library space to the renovated building.



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The Nanaimo North Library is designed by Victoria architects Chow Low Hammond. It will feature large windows to take advantage of natural light, and will complement the mature evergreen trees that surround the site. Two meeting rooms will be available for public use; there will be room for programming for children and adults, and comfortable and quiet places for reading and study. Customers will be able to borrow books (including best sellers), DVDs, CDs, and magazines and download eBooks and eAudiobooks. Free internet and Wi-Fi access will also be available.

The Nanaimo North Library is anticipated to open in spring of 2014 and will serve residents in north Nanaimo, Lantzville and Nanoose.

Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

The Board of Trustees voted to ask the Regional District of Nanaimo to source funding to a maximum amount of \$9.5 million for the purchase and renovation of the Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch located at 90 Commercial Street in Nanaimo. This action, if approved by the electorate, will see an improved branch while maintaining costs at or below the present costs of leasing the premises. The purchase of the Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch will also provide a small amount of revenue to Vancouver Island Regional Library as part of the building is rented out. Over time this purchase will increase the library's equity on average \$380,000 per year, and in the long term will greatly reduce costs.

Performance Indicators

At each Board meeting a number of performance indicators are shared with trustees in order to highlight the many activities that take place in the 38 branches of Vancouver Island Regional Library.

So far in 2012

- Our branches have been visited over 2.3 million times
- Our customers have borrowed almost 3.8 million items
- Our librarians have been asked for information over 57,000 times
- Our public internet stations have been used over 300,000 times
- Children have used our children's literacy stations almost 40,000 times
- Our librarians have offered over 2,400 free programs attended by almost 52,000 people

Your public library ... your community gathering place.

Branch Activities

Following is a sample of the many programs and activities happening in our branches and communities.

Bowser Branch

The popular story times held each month for children and caregivers are enjoying increased attendance. In October, customers learned about library programs and enjoyed refreshments during Customer Appreciation Day in celebration of Canadian Library Month. A dozen enthusiastic adults also enjoyed a session on eBooks, eReaders and the Library.

Campbell River Branch

In September, over 150 people attended a presentation and slide show about wolves with Gary Allan and Tundra, a five-year-old female wolf-dog, who charmed everyone with her gentle manner. Gary Allen is from Sointula, and runs the Ambassador Wolf Program. He speaks to school children and community groups about wolves and their role in the environment.

Chemainus Branch

In October, two foot care specialists gave a presentation about foot care and common foot problems, with a special focus on diabetic foot care. The program was very well received, with an in-depth discussion between the presenters and those in attendance.

Comox Branch

Ongoing programs offered this fall at the Comox branch include eBook classes, storytimes, an adult book club and the creation of a weekly knitting group. Kale cookbook author Sharon Hanna led a discussion on growing, cooking and eating kale. Over 70 people attended!

Branch staff is working on a partnership with the Rotary Club of Comox and a local elementary school to create a Reading Buddies program. The program is aimed at children who have been identified by their teacher as having trouble reading and who are willing to participate in the program. They are partnered with Rotary volunteers at the library who show them how much fun reading can be. This program ran as a successful pilot last year with teachers noticing an increase in the reading level of their students.

For Halloween, both the Courtenay and Comox branches partnered with the Comox Valley Family Literacy Outreach Group to offer the Books for Treats program. Despite heavy rain, close to 70 children came to the Comox Branch to pick up a gently used book.

Courtenay Branch

Twice a month the branch hosts eBook workshops and staff fields many one-on-one drop in sessions about eBooks and eReaders each week. Author readings are popular with a different author visiting each week. Sointula author Gary Allan and Tundra, a five-year-old female wolf-dog visited the library twice in October presenting to over 150 people at each session. The Halloween Books for Treats event welcomed 250 families and 125 books were given away. Books were donated by local Rotary members and by City of Courtenay employees who donated books they purchased with their jeans day money.

Cowichan Branch

A new monthly program, Music in the Library was launched in September. Local musicians perform at the branch to the delight of customers. A handbell ensemble performed in September and a local fiddle player performed in October.

During Homelessness Action Week in October, the branch joined forces with other organizations in the Cowichan Valley to raise awareness about homelessness. In Mill Bay and Duncan, library staff helped to fill a tent full of supplies to help those who live outdoors. Many stories were shared about the importance of the library by people who have experienced homelessness. As a direct result of this outreach work, the library plans to partner to offer a Ready to Rent program for Cowichan Valley residents that have had difficulty finding or maintaining housing. Community organizations were pleased to learn about the adult transitional cards available at Vancouver Island Regional Library.

Cowichan Lake Branch

Tuesday Talk Nights (formerly Open Mike Poetry Night) are a fun, informative and informal gathering of people who love sharing the spoken word. Talk Nights draw local authors, songwriters and poets, and members of the community who share their favourite piece of prose or just a receptive ear.

Almost 40 adults and children packed the branch on October 27 to enjoy a Halloween puppet show and sing-along.

Gabriola Island Branch

The newly expanded Gabriola Island branch celebrated its official opening on a sunny day in late October. Since the branch opened for business in mid-September, Gabriola Island residents have been visiting in droves. People are thrilled with the bright and cheerful space and new customers are signing up for cards so they can enjoy all of the new books, music and movies on the shelves.

Haida Gwaii Branches

This fall the four libraries in Haida Gwaii (Masset, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit) all provided community storytimes with two offering Halloween-themed events.

Staff was also happy to report that no library material was lost and no damage was sustained in the 7.7 earthquake that took place on October 27.

Ladysmith Branch

Children's storytime is offered on Thursday afternoons for children aged to 0 – 5 years. Local kindergarten classes enjoy touring the library and participating in storytime.

Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

Nanaimo Harbourfront continues to host a series of genealogy workshops, covering topics including How to Begin, Canadian Sources, and United Kingdom sources.

Many Harbourfront customers use the Resume Builder software and information resources at the branch to help with job searches. Noticing the popularity of these tools, a customer services librarian has started to hold a series of workshops on resume building, and developing and improving job search skills.

In October and November the branch hosted almost twenty author events and workshops as part of its outreach activities.

Nanaimo Wellington Branch

Storytime sessions for toddlers and babies remain very popular and are fully booked up until the end of the year. Lego Club Saturday is a big hit and the busy builders' creations on display in the branch create a lot of interest.

The Friends of the Library, Wellington Branch held a Customer Appreciation Tea at the end of October and raffled off a quilt to raise funds for the branch.

Parksville Branch

Customers enjoyed refreshments and Phil Taylor's "close up" magic during customer appreciation day in celebration of Canadian Library Month in October.

Fall programming is fully underway with offerings including Thrilling Tales: Stories for Adults, and an intergenerational program, Saturday Stitching. A capacity crowd attended Van Clayton Powell's presentation about his book You are NOT What You Eat.

An evening Introduction to Book Clubs program has led to the formation of a self-directed book club that meets regularly at the branch.

Port Alberni Branch

Fall programs for children began with a Puppet Show Kick-off in September. Puppet shows always draw a large crowd in Port Alberni. Other programs included a Bear Aware program designed to prevent and reduce conflict between people and bears; and the always popular Introduction to eBooks and eReaders class.

The branch celebrated its 40th birthday on October 23 with over 100 people stopping by with birthday greetings.

Port McNeill Branch

The branch has started a monthly evening Pajama Storytime where children and their parents are encouraged to come to the library in their pajamas for a special, themed storytime. This program is an opportunity for parents, who may not have had a chance to visit the library as a family during the day, to learn about the library's services and programs.

Port Renfrew Branch

The branch continues to review its collection in preparation for its relocation to Port Renfrew's recreation centre in 2013.

Thanks to the library's Summer Reading Club program, one of the new students at the Port Renfrew Elementary School has found the transition to school easier. As an enthusiastic library user, he is keen to show his classmates how the library works.

The branch recently created a display of First Nations books for children that has been well received.

Qualicum Beach Branch

Staff has been very busy offering weekly storytimes and babytimes; Lego night; Dad's night out; introduction to eBooks sessions; and a brand new book club that is "the buzz of the town."

The Library Manager and Customer Services Librarian spoke to over 150 people at the Dynamic Learning Environments Conference in October about library activities, services and community partnerships. Library Manager Eileen Gillette presented on early literacy learning at the PacificCARE Keys to Literacy event. She provided information about early literacy programs, services and eResources available at the library to over 25 child care providers and elementary teachers. Of special interest were Tumblebooks and Homework Help databases.

Sidney/North Saanich Branch

October is “art month” on the Saanich Peninsula. The library hosted an open house featuring library staff artists who talked about and demonstrated their work and creative process. The branch also showcased a display of handmade and bound artist books made by members of the local chapter of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild. The local Friends of the Library chapter hosted author Anny Scoones who read from her delightful books about North Saanich’s Glamorgan Farm.

The branch celebrated its 30th anniversary on October 3. Trustees Melissa Hailey and Elsie McMurphy attended the celebration and exchanged remembrances with Friends of the Library, customers and staff.

Two member-led writers groups have begun monthly meetings at the branch after local writers who wanted to connect with other writers asked if the library could play a role. A critique group involves members reading and commenting on each other’s writing, and a business of writing group discusses topics including getting published, marketing your book, distribution etc. The library helps promote the groups, provides meeting room space and arranges for occasional expert speakers.

Sooke Branch

This fall, regular storytime and babytime programs have been well attended and have welcomed new participants. One-on-one eBook consultations with customers have proved to be very successful as people learn more about the possibilities of the eLibrary.

Staff eagerly participated in Halloween events by dressing up and decorating the library. A “Help Haunt the Library” contest involved customers bringing in a mask of their own design to help decorate the branch and the chance to win a prize. The branch participated for the first time in the “Books for Treats” program and children happily selected a new or gently used book to add to their goody bags. Library Manager Adrienne Wass set up a craft and display area at the very popular Safe Halloween community event allowing children to create elaborate artwork as a take-home souvenir.

South Cowichan Branch

Canadian Library Month was celebrated with a display of books by Vancouver Island authors that proved to be very popular with customers. A new set of Mother Goose programs were met with high attendance. Adult programs this fall included two popular programs on health: one on natural approaches to the prevention of disease; and one for people changing to a gluten-free diet.

Woss Branch

Customers enjoy the Introduction to eBooks and eReaders classes where they learn how to use the library’s Kobo eReaders and how to download free eBooks from www.virl.bc.ca.