

First Annual GeekCON Draws Crowds

NANAIMO, August 30th, 2016 – A first annual celebration of geek culture drew big crowds to the Nanaimo Harbourfront library on Saturday, August 20th. Over 300 turned out for the first event of its kind in Nanaimo, GeekCON 2016.



The event was held at the downtown Nanaimo Harbourfront library and featured a panel from the gaming industry, a cosplay competition, Magic the Gathering tournament, Minecraft tournament, Medieval Chaos demo, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child discussion group, and book signings by fantasy author, Cynthea Masson as well as 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 held at the Nanaimo Harbourfront library 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."

For more information, contact Natasha Bartlett (nbartlett@virl.bc.ca) or 250-327-3114. Stay tuned for GeekCON 2017 at your Nanaimo Harbourfront library next Summer!

For more information contact:

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Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is the fifth-largest library system in British Columbia. We serve over 430,000 people on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola on the Central Coast through 39 branch libraries, a virtual branch, and a books-by-mail service. VIRL's holdings number one million and include books, magazines, CDs and DVDs. Administrative offices are located in Nanaimo.

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