from the Board Table

A Meeting with the Minister

The Board received a verbal report about a successful trip members of the Board and VIRL staff took to Victoria to advocate for increased library funding. The team met with the Honourable Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister and members of Ministry staff. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry about how libraries and the Province can partner on Capital Funding in the future.

Nominations are Open!

Any Board members interested in running for Chair, Vice Chair, and the Executive Committee have until December 16 to submit their nominations for these exciting roles. The election takes place at the AGM in January.

2020 Board Schedule

January 18, 2020	Annual General Meeting
February 28, 2020	Executive Committee (Regular Meeting)
March 28, 2020	Board of Trustees (Regular Meeting)
May 1, 2020	Executive Committee (Regular Meeting)
May 30, 2020	Board of Trustees (Regular Meeting)
July 3, 2020	Executive Committee (Budget Meeting)
August 28, 2020	Executive Committee (Budget & Regular Meeting)
September 19, 2020	Board of Trustees (Budget & Regular Meeting)
October 23, 2020	Executive Committee (Regular Meeting)
November 21, 2020	Board of Trustees (Regular Meeting)

VIRL Staff and Members of the Board with the Honourable Minister of Education

New VIRL Scorecard

VIRL is revising the way we report our metrics to the Board. This new approach will change the way VIRL tells our story with a quarterly report that demonstrates the impact libraries are having on individuals and communities across our service area.

The Scorecard has the following areas of focus:

- Customers and Community
- Library Collections
- Innovation and Learning
- Finance
- Branch Results

As a result of these changes, members of the Board will have a clearer understanding of the stories our branches are telling, the lives we are affecting, and the significant role our branches are playing in the communities we serve.

Digital Snapshot

VIRL's digital collection continues to grow in popularity and every year becomes more important to customers across our service area. This report provided Trustees with an overview of the complexities and trends in our digital collection. The report also highlighted the many challenges VIRL, and all libraries, face in ensuring that customers have access to the best possible digital collections as a result of restrictive policies and practices from some major publishing companies.

Libraries are not buckling in the face of these challenges, and the Board heard of the concerted efforts underway to fight back, from seeking government support to gathering signatures from members of the public.

Facilities Update

Campbell River: VIRL staff met with City of Campbell River staff on October 31 to move discussions on a new branch forward. Project planning continues on this exciting initiative for Campbell River.

Chemainus: The new branch is slated to open in early 2020 with grand opening celebrations shortly thereafter.

Courtenay: VIRL has initiated planning this project and we await an announcement regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant.

Ladysmith: Ladysmith is looking to initiate a mixed-use project on property owned by the Town, which could include space for a new branch. No recent discussions have taken place.

Masset: Based on the success of the Sayward tender, VIRL will move forward with developing plans for the Masset branch. VIRL's consultants are preparing the documents for tender.

North Saanich: The proposed site at the Panorama Centre is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve. VIRL awaits further direction from North Saanich.

Port Alberni: Planning is underway and VIRL is currently reviewing the bids received from architects.

Facilities Update cont.

The new Sayward branch

Queen Charlotte: VIRL had discussions with School District 50 and local officials regarding potential sites for a new library. No additional information to report.

Sandspit: VIRL is working with School District 50 to finalize a lease for land to house a new prototype branch. Survey, geotechnical and environmental work are complete. Discussions are on hold while the parties work to resolve an issue surrounding use of the space.

Sayward: Construction is well underway with the new branch slated to open late 2019. Grand opening celebrations are set for December 21.

Sooke: VIRL awaits approval of the Development Permit and further direction from Council. The Development Permit was unanimously approved at the November 25 Council Meeting. Next steps will be communicated shortly.

Tahsis: VIRL continues discussion around potential sites or other options for service delivery.

Tofino: VIRL awaits direction from Tofino as to the placement of a new branch.

Woss: The Village of Woss has identified the site for the new branch. VIRL staff have commenced with the necessary planning work in preparation of a prototype branch, including work to produce a bid package.

The new Chemainus branch

Finance Report

Teen area at the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet of $33.2 million shows a healthy balance of cash and investments of $6.5 million at the end of September and a year to date operating surplus of $396,289.

Revenue & Expenditures

The net operating surplus as at the end of September reflects that revenues were in line with expectations and expenditures were within budget.

Reserves Report

The Board of Trustees is provided with updated reserves information at each meeting. At the end of September the reserves stood at a balance of $5.7 million. Appropriations to reserves are recorded on a monthly basis and at the end of September represented 80% of the budgeted contributions to reserves for the year.

Year to date withdrawals consist of amounts for projects at various facilities, as well as purchases of furniture and equipment, IT software and hardware, and improvements to the Integrated Library System.

"VIRL's current position is sustainable and revenues were in line with expectations and expenditures were within budget."
- Joel Adams, Finance Director