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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

OPEN PORTION at 7:00 pm

March 13, 2017

Council Chambers

2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke, B.C.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS/SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION		Page #
Item 7.1 Supplementary Information	Future Policing Costs Reserve Bylaw No. 653 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council to consider <i>new</i> recommendation as provided as supplementary information	1
Item 7.2 Bylaws	Bylaw No. 558, <i>Zoning Amendment Bylaw (600-3)</i> - 1781 Minnie & 7057 West Coast Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council to consider adoption of Bylaw No. 558	3
Item 8.5 Supplementary Information	2017 – 2021 Five Year Financial Plan as at March 13, 2017	See separate pkg.
Item 9.1 New Business	Use of District Logo Request: BC Housing – Knox Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council to consider staff recommendation	15
Item 9.2 New Business	Vancouver Island Regional Library – Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda – March 18, 2017	19

New Recommendation for Item 7.1:

1. THAT *The District of Sooke Future Policing Costs Reserve Bylaw No.653*, be rescinded at Third Reading.
2. THAT Council amend *The District of Sooke Future Policing Costs Reserve Bylaw No.653*, as follows:
 - Update the amount in s. 3 from \$43,869 to \$88,615.
 - Delete the words “Excess” and “not utilized within the annual policing” from s. 4.a) and add the words “will be deposited into the reserve for the years 2017 to 2021.” following the word “revenue”.
 - Delete s. 4.c) from the bylaw and renumber accordingly.
3. THAT *The District of Sooke Future Policing Costs Reserve Bylaw No.653*, be Read a Third time, as amended.



**DISTRICT OF SOOKE
ZONING AMENDMENT
BYLAW No. 558**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 600, *Sooke Zoning Bylaw, 2013* for the purpose of amending the zoning on 1781 Minnie Road and 7057 West Coast Road from Rural Residential (RU4) to Small Lot Residential (R3).

The Council of the District of Sooke, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw is cited as *Zoning Amendment Bylaw (600-3)*.
2. Bylaw No. 600, *Sooke Zoning Bylaw, 2013* is amended in **Schedule A** by changing the zoning on the property legally described as *Lot 2, Section 4, Sooke District, Plan VIP52401* and *Lot 6, Section 4, Sooke District, Plan 1282, Except That Part in Plan 118 RW and Plan 29880* as shown shaded on Schedule A to this bylaw from Rural Residential (RU4) to Small Lot Residential Zone (R3).

Introduced and read a first time the 27th day of May, 2013.

Read a second time the 27th day of May, 2013.

Public hearing held the 23rd day of January, 2017.

Read a third time the 23rd day of January, 2017.

Approved under the Transportation Act the 7th day of February, 2017.

ADOPTED the ____ day of March, 2017.

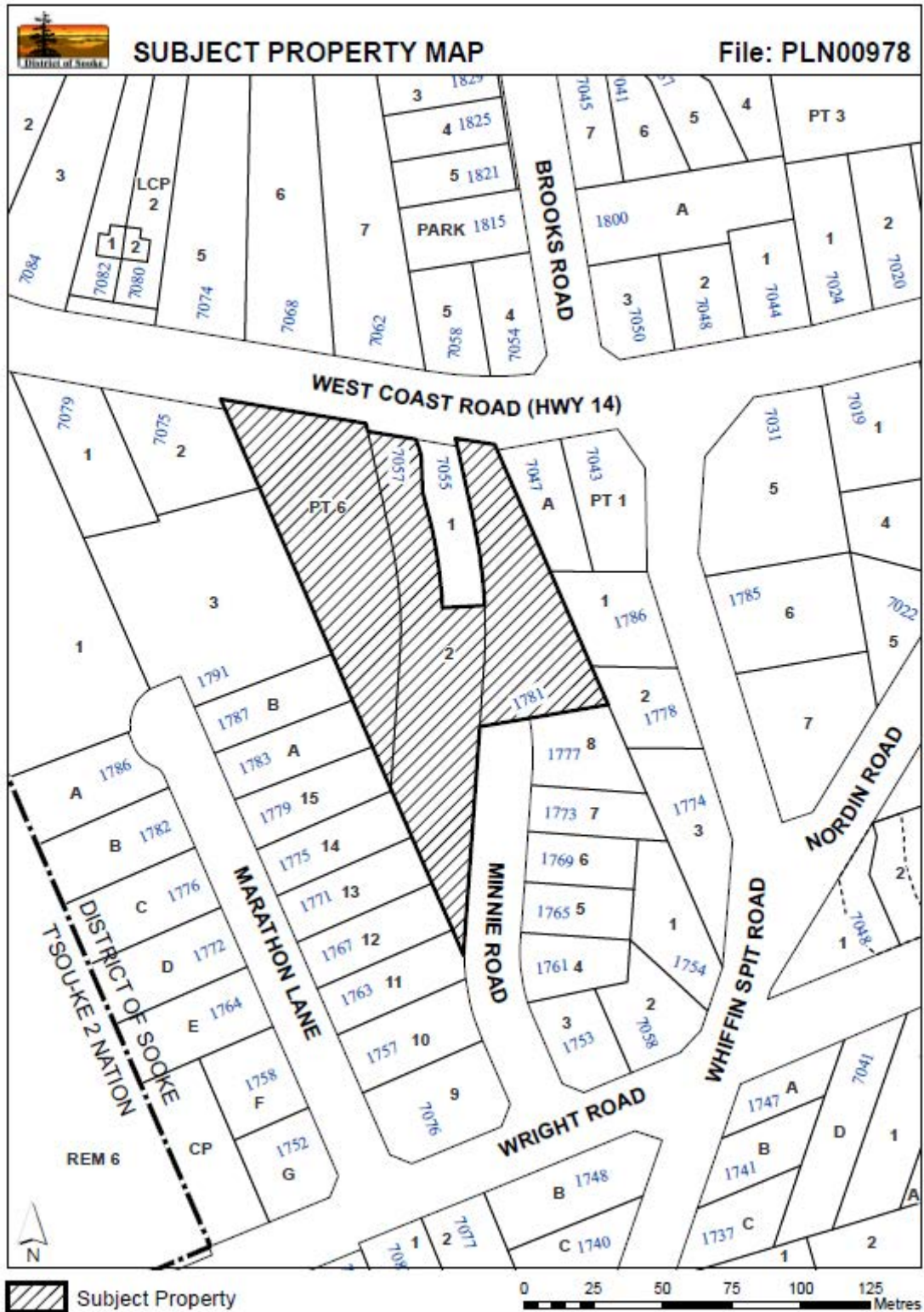
Certified Correct:

**Maja Tait
Mayor**

**Gabryel Joseph
Corporate Officer**

(Registered s. 219 Covenant No. CA5865598 in the LTO on the 10th day of March, 2017)

SCHEDULE A



**LAND TITLE ACT
FORM C (Section 233) CHARGE**

GENERAL INSTRUMENT - PART 1 Province of British Columbia

PAGE OF PAGES

Your electronic signature is a representation that you are a subscriber as defined by the Land Title Act, RSBC 1996 c.250, and that you have applied your electronic signature in accordance with Section 168.3, and a true copy, or a copy of that true copy, is in your possession.

1. APPLICATION: (Name, address, phone number of applicant, applicant's solicitor or agent)

Deduct LTSA Fees? Yes

2. PARCEL IDENTIFIER AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LAND:
[PID] [LEGAL DESCRIPTION]

STC? YES

3. NATURE OF INTEREST CHARGE NO. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. TERMS: Part 2 of this instrument consists of (select one only)
(a) Filed Standard Charge Terms D.F. No. (b) Express Charge Terms Annexed as Part 2
A selection of (a) includes any additional or modified terms referred to in Item 7 or in a schedule annexed to this instrument.

5. TRANSFEROR(S):

6. TRANSFEREE(S): (including postal address(es) and postal code(s))

7. ADDITIONAL OR MODIFIED TERMS:

8. EXECUTION(S): This instrument creates, assigns, modifies, enlarges, discharges or governs the priority of the interest(s) described in Item 3 and the Transferor(s) and every other signatory agree to be bound by this instrument, and acknowledge(s) receipt of a true copy of the filed standard charge terms, if any.

Officer Signature(s)

Execution Date

Transferor(s) Signature(s)

Y	M	D

OFFICER CERTIFICATION:

Your signature constitutes a representation that you are a solicitor, notary public or other person authorized by the *Evidence Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.124, to take affidavits for use in British Columbia and certifies the matters set out in Part 5 of the *Land Title Act* as they pertain to the execution of this instrument.

EXECUTIONS CONTINUED

PAGE of PAGES

Execution Date

Transferor / Borrower / Party Signature(s)

[illegible]

Your signature constitutes a representation that you are a solicitor, notary public or other person authorized by the *Evidence Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.124, to take affidavits for use in British Columbia and certifies the matters set out in Part 5 of the *Land Title Act* as they pertain to the execution of this instrument.

LAND TITLE ACT
FORM E

SCHEDULE	PAGE	OF	PAGES
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2. PARCEL IDENTIFIER AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LAND:
[PID] [LEGAL DESCRIPTION]

STC? YES

2. PARCEL IDENTIFIER AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LAND:
[PID] [LEGAL DESCRIPTION]

STC? YES

2. PARCEL IDENTIFIER AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LAND:
[PID] [LEGAL DESCRIPTION]

STC? YES

**LAND TITLE ACT
FORM E**

SCHEDULE

PAGE OF PAGES

NATURE OF INTEREST	CHARGE NO.	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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NATURE OF INTEREST	CHARGE NO.	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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TERMS OF INSTRUMENT – PART 2

SECTION 219 COVENANT

THIS AGREEMENT, dated for reference _____, 201__ is made

BETWEEN:

Beverly Wade Befus and Sherri Lynn Befus
1781 Minnie Road
Sooke, BC V9Z 0S5

(the “Owner”)

AND:

DISTRICT OF SOOKE, a municipality incorporated under the
Local Government Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.323 and having its office
at 2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC V9Z 1J2

(the “Municipality”)

GIVEN THAT:

- A. The Owner is the registered Owner in fee simple of the land in Sooke, British Columbia, legally described as:
- Lot 2, Section 4, Sooke District, Plan VIP52401 (PID 017-349-966) and,
- Lot 6, Section 4, Sooke District, Plan 1282, Except That Part in plan 118 RW and Plan 29880 (PID 005-887-895)
- (the “Land”);
- B. The Owner proposes to develop the Land for a residential use;
- C. The Owner has requested the Municipality to adopt Bylaw No. 558, *Zoning Amendment Bylaw (600-3)* (the “Rezoning Bylaw”) rezoning the Land to permit the development proposed by the Owner, and
- D. The Council of the Municipality has determined that the adoption of the Rezoning Bylaw would, but for the covenants contained in this Agreement, not be in the public interest; and the Owner therefore wishes to grant pursuant to s.219 of the *Land Title Act*, and the Municipality wishes to accept, the covenants over the Land that are set out in this Agreement;

THIS AGREEMENT is evidence that in consideration of payment of \$1.00 by each of the Municipality to the Owner (the receipt of which is acknowledged by the Owner), the Owner grants to the Municipality in accordance with s.219 of the Land Title Act the following covenants:

1. The Owner covenants and agrees with the Municipality that:
 - (a) The Land must not be redeveloped beyond its current use;
 - (b) The Land must not be subdivided;
 - (c) Development of the Land, including by construction or placement of any building or structure on the Land is prohibited with exception of a show home;
 - (d) No building permit may be applied for, and the Municipality is not obliged to issue any building permit, in respect of the Land with exception of a show home; and
 - (e) No occupancy permit may be applied for, and the Municipality is not obliged to issue any occupancy permit, in respect of the Land,

unless the use, subdivision, development, building or occupancy is in accordance with the Schedule of Restrictions attached as Schedule A.

2. Any opinion, decision, act or expression of satisfaction of the Municipality provided for in this Agreement is to be taken or made by the Municipality's Director of Development Services or his or her delegate authorized as such in writing, in each case acting reasonably.
3. The Owner may, after the Rezoning Bylaw is adopted, request a discharge of any particular covenant granted in this Agreement in respect of any parcel into which the Land may be subdivided, and the Municipality shall execute and deliver a discharge in respect of any such covenant that has been, in the Municipality's opinion, fully satisfied by the Owner.
4. The Owner releases, and must indemnify and save harmless, the Municipality, its elected and appointed officials and employees, from and against all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, damages, expenses, costs, debts, demands or losses suffered or incurred by the Owner, or anyone else, arising from the granting or existence of this Agreement, from the performance by the Owner of this Agreement, or any default of the Owner under or in respect of this Agreement.
5. The parties agree that this Agreement creates only contractual obligations and obligations arising out of the nature of this document as a covenant under seal. The parties agree that no tort obligations or liabilities of any kind exist between the parties in connection with the performance of, or any default under or in respect of, this Agreement. The intent of this section is to exclude tort liability of any kind and to limit the parties to their rights and remedies under the law of contract and under the law pertaining to covenants under seal.
6. The rights given to the Municipality by this Agreement are permissive only and nothing in this Agreement imposes any legal duty of any kind on the Municipality to anyone, or

obliges the Municipality to enforce this Agreement, to perform any act or to incur any expense in respect of this Agreement.

7. Where the Municipality is required or permitted by this Agreement to form an opinion, exercise a discretion, express satisfaction, make a determination or give its consent, the Owner agrees that the Municipality is under no public law duty of fairness or natural justice in that regard and agrees that the Municipality may do any of those things in the same manner as if it were a private party and not a public body.
8. This Agreement does not:
 - (a) affect or limit the discretion, rights or powers of the Municipality under any enactment (as defined in the Interpretation Act, on the reference date of this Agreement) or at common law, including in relation to the use of the Land,
 - (b) affect or limit any enactment related to the use of the Land, or
 - (c) relieve the Owner from complying with any enactment, including in relation to the use of the Land.
9. Every obligation and covenant of the Owner in this Agreement constitutes both a contractual obligation and a covenant granted under s.219 of the Land Title Act in respect of the Land and this Agreement burdens the Land and runs with it and binds the successors in title to the Land. This Agreement burdens and charges all of the Land and any parcel into which it is subdivided by any means and any parcel into which the Land is consolidated. The Owner is only liable for breaches of this Agreement that occur while the Owner is the registered Owner of the Land.
10. The Owner agrees to do everything reasonably necessary, at the Owner's expense, to ensure that this Agreement is registered against title to the Land with priority over all financial charges, liens and encumbrances registered, or the registration of which is pending, at the time of application for registration of this Agreement.
11. An alleged waiver of any breach of this Agreement is effective only if it is an express waiver in writing of the breach in respect of which the waiver is asserted. A waiver of a breach of this Agreement does not operate as a waiver of any other breach of this Agreement.
12. If any part of this Agreement is held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable by a court having the jurisdiction to do so, that part is to be considered to have been severed from the rest of this Agreement and the rest of this Agreement remains in force unaffected by that holding or by the severance of that part.
13. This Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties regarding its subject.
14. This Agreement binds the parties to it and their respective successors, heirs, executors and administrators.
15. The Owner must do everything reasonably necessary to give effect to the intent of this Agreement, including execution of further instrument.

16. By executing and delivering this Agreement each of the parties intends to create both a contract and a deed executed and delivered under seal.
17. FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION, by its execution of this document, does hereby agree that this section 219 covenant shall rank in priority to its mortgage registered under number CA882039 and to its Assignment of Rents CA882040, both registered in the Victoria Land Title Office as charges against Lot 2 Section 4 Sooke District Plan VIP52401 (PID 017-349-966).
18. FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION, by its execution of this document, does hereby agree that this section 219 covenant shall rank in priority to its mortgage registered under number CA882037, registered in the Victoria Land Title Office as a charge against Lot 6, Section 4, Sooke District, Plan 1282, Except That Part in Plan 118 RW And Plan 29880 (PID 005-887-895)

As evidence of their agreement to be bound by the terms of this instrument, the parties hereto have executed the Land Title Office Form C that is attached hereto and forms part of this Agreement.

SCHEDULE "A"

SCHEDULE OF RESTRICTIONS

1.0 AMENITIES

- 1.1 The Developer covenants and agrees to provide, to the satisfaction of the District's Director of Development Services, and at its sole cost the Amenities, prior to approval of subdivision of the Lands in accordance with section 1.0 of this Schedule "A".
- 1.2 The amenities to be provided are one or more of the following: parks and trail development, waterfront walkway, affordable housing, open space (in addition to statutory park dedications), day care facilities (not for profit), public art, park equipment, Agricultural Land Reserve acquisitions, community gardens, parking structures, performing arts facility, green infrastructure, beautification projects, affordable housing and preservation of heritage structures, having in the aggregate a market value not exceeding \$5,000 for each additional dwelling unit in excess of the 12 dwelling unit Base Density on the land, in the locations and in accordance with standards approved in writing by the District's Director of Development Services.
- 1.3 Despite section 1.2 of this Schedule, in lieu of provision of these amenities, the Developer may at the Subdivision stage pay the District \$5,000 for each additional dwelling unit in excess of the 12 dwelling unit Base Density on the land, and the District must use the amount paid only for provision of the amenities to be collected at time of subdivision.
- 1.4 The amenity contribution shall be based on the maximum residential density.

2.0 SERVICING

- 2.1 The Developer covenants that it shall not subdivide the Lands and that it shall not construct any buildings, improvements or structures on the Lands except for the Amenities, improvements and enhancements required under the sections 1.0 and 2.0, and except for structures such as roads, pipes, mains, pumps, and all related facilities and equipment as may be necessary to provide water, sanitary sewer, stormwater/rainwater management and fire suppression services to the Lands, in accordance with all required permits and approvals, until the conditions outlined in this section are fulfilled.
- 2.2 The Developer shall at its sole cost design, install, plant and construct the following works, services and other things:
 - a. Prior to subdivision approval, frontage road dedication required along Highway 14 to align with neighboring properties 7057, 7055, and 7075 West Coast Road.
 - b. Prior to subdivision approval, Highway 14 frontage is to be designed and constructed as per Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requirements.
- 3.0 Prior to approval of a subdivision in respect of the Lands authorizing the construction and installation or other provision of the Servicing required under section 2.0, and the Subdivision and Development Standards Bylaw, the Developer must provide to the District security in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, or in a form satisfactory to the District, and in the amount of one hundred ten (110%) percent of the estimated cost of constructing and installing and otherwise providing the Servicing required under both the Subdivision and Development Standards Bylaw and section 2.0,

as estimated by a Professional Engineer and accepted by the Director of Development Services acting reasonably, which security will be released to the Developer upon completion of the works and services and upon final acceptance by the District's Director of Development Services.

- 4.0 The Owner may request a discharge of any particular covenant granted in this Agreement, for which, either sufficient security was posted by the Owner and accepted by the Municipality, or the work has been completed and accepted by the Municipality, therefore deemed to be fully satisfied by the Owner, and the Municipality shall execute and deliver a discharge in respect of any such covenant.

END OF DOCUMENT



Use of District Logo Request: BC Housing - Knox Centre

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize BC Housing to use the District Logo for signage regarding funding for the Knox Centre affordable housing development.

Report Summary:

BC Housing has requested the use of the District's logo for signage for the proposed Knox Centre affordable housing development and according to Policy, the Council must consider written requests for use of District logos.

Previous Council Action:

Council approved the development proposal for the affordable housing project located at 2110 and 2120 Church Road (Knox Centre), in 2016.

Report:

BC Housing has requested the use of the District's logo for signage being erected for the proposed Knox Centre affordable housing development. The signage will include a message portraying the Government of B.C, District of Sooke, and Knox Vision Society as partners in the project. The District of Sooke provides a permissive tax exemption grant to Sooke Knox Presbyterian Church each year under the (Permissive Tax) *Property Tax Exemption for Church Halls and Church Land Bylaw, 2007* (No. 337).

Legal Impacts:

The District of Sooke has a Logo and Coat of Arms Policy (1.3) which states that organizations, individuals and businesses wishing to use the District's logos, must submit a written request to Council for consideration.

Budget/Financial Impacts:

N/A - Permissive Tax Exemptions are included in the Five-Year Financial Plan.

Strategic Relevance:

Excellence in Management and Governance

Attached Documents:

[email-BCHousing-KnoxCentre](#)

[Logo and Coat of Arms Policy No. 1.3, 2002](#)

Patti Rear

Subject: FW: Knox Centre Affordable Housing Project - signage

From: Renee Schisler [<mailto:rschisler@bchousing.org>]

Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:04 AM

To: Tara Johnson <tjohnson@sooke.ca>

Cc: John McEown <jmceown@bchousing.org>

Subject: FW: 2110 & 2120 Church Rd - signage

Hello Tara,

I'm organizing signs for several projects, including Knox Centre in Sooke. Our goal is to place these signs on site by March 24th. Would you be able to provide me with an EPS version of the District of Sooke logo today?

Project Name: **Knox Centre**

Message: **This affordable housing development is the result of a partnership between the Government of B.C, District of Sooke and Knox Vision Society.**

Many thanks,



Renée Schisler | Senior Communications Specialist | Community Relations

Office: 604-439-4758 | Mobile: 778-879-4922 | rschisler@bchousing.org | www.bchousing.org

1701 - 4555 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4V8 Canada

From: MJ Whitemarsh [<mailto:mj@whitemarsh.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 9:54 AM

To: Renee Schisler

Cc: John McEown; Andy Orr; Pastor Gordon Kouwenberg

Subject: Re: 2110 & 2120 Church Rd - signage

Good morning Renee

Attached is the newly created logo for Knox Vision Society along with pantone colour choices.

Other partners to be noted are the District Of Sooke, contact will be Tara Johnson, contact

email;tjohnson@sooke.ca

Please note the name of the project is Knox Centre not the address

Our architect Joe Newell will forward a rendering for use on the sign later today.

You may contact me for sign installation after March 21st. I will be away until then.

Please let me know if you require anything else.

Warm regards,

M.J.



Policy 1.3
File No. 0300-00
Adopted October 28, 2002

Logo and Coat of Arms Policy

COAT OF ARMS

The armorial bearings (coat of arms and flag) of the District of Sooke were granted to and received by the District of Sooke on September 16, 2002 and the armorial bearings are entered in Volume IV, page 231 of the *Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada* to be borne and used for ever by the District of Sooke, according to the Law of Arms of Canada.



LOGO

The Register of Trademarks has given public notice dated January 30, 2002 in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph 9(1)(n)(iii) of the *Trade-marks Act* of the adoption and use in Canada of the logo of the District of Sooke as an official mark of the District of Sooke.



Policy Statement:

1. The District of Sooke armorial bearings (coat of arms and flag) serve as the special and official insignia reserved for
 - (a) documents of institutional and legal importance
 - (b) official communications and correspondence, resolutions, official proclamations and correspondence
 - (c) official permits, licences and official notices
 - (d) official symbol for the District of Sooke

2. The District of Sooke logo serves as an informal insignia and may be used for
 - (a) general stationary
 - (b) promotional material
 - (c) advertising
 - (d) general identifier of the District of Sooke
3. Organisations, individuals and businesses wishing to use the District of Sooke armorial bearings or logo must submit a written request to Council for consideration.
4. The unauthorized use of the District of Sooke armorial bearings and logo is prohibited.
5. The flag of the armorial bearings may be sold through the District of Sooke offices at the actual cost of production, plus a fee of 15% and taxes.
6. The flag of the armorial bearings must be flown on its own pole.



Board of Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2017
Agenda

Nanaimo River Room
Vancouver Island Convention Centre, Nanaimo BC

Page

1. Call to Order – 9:30 am	
a) Opening remarks	
b) Roll call	
2. Agenda	
a) Items to be removed from Consent Business	
b) Additions or deletions	
c) Approval of agenda	
3. Minutes	
a) January 21, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – <i>for approval</i>	4
b) March 2, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – <i>for receipt</i>	10
4. Delegations	
5. Business Arising	
a) Revised Board Policy: Delegations / Public Participation	15
6. Finance	
a) January 2017 Finance Report	20
b) January 2017 Reserves Report	26
c) Presentation: Consolidated Facilities Master Plan & Facilities Policy Joel Adams, Director of Finance	
d) Facility Projects Update	31
e) Sooke Building Project	35
7. New Business	
a) Community Wellness Grant	40
8. Consent Business	
a) Performance Indicators (http://virltrustee.com/portal/2017-statistics/)	43
b) VIRL in the Media	44
i. Sidney's Mary Winspear Centre eyes library, more growth, Peninsula News Review, Jan. 14/17	45
ii. Sooke Coun. Kerrie Reay will serve another term on the Vancouver Island Regional Library board executive committee, Sooke News Mirror, Feb. 2/17	47
iii. Library books offer great pick up lines, Sooke News Mirror, Feb. 6/17	48
iv. Oops, we did it again: The District plays whack-a-mole with the Sooke Library, Sooke Pocket News, Feb. 7/17	50



**Board of Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2017
Agenda**

b) VIRL in the Media (cont'd)	
v. Second site mulled for new Sooke library, Sooke News Mirror, Feb. 8/17	53
vi. New Library at SEAPARC under serious consideration, Sooke Pocket News, Feb. 10/17	55
vii. Letter: The ball is now in library's court, Sooke News Mirror, Feb. 15/17	57
viii. Dog-eared reading program helps struggling kids, Sooke News Mirror, Feb. 20/17	58
ix. Lot A land could be worth millions: Sooke contractor, Sooke News Mirror, Feb. 20/17	60
x. New Nanaimo library renovation costs double, Nanaimo News Bulletin, Feb. 23/17	62
xi. Nanaimo hockey players help students engage with reading, Nanaimo News Bulletin, Feb. 24/17	64
xii. Looking at the SEAPARC property for the new Sooke library, West Shore Voice, Feb. 24/17	66
xiii. Editorial: Library location not about money, Sooke News Mirror, March 8/17	67
c) Correspondence	68
i. Email from customer [REDACTED] to Sabrina Frazier, VIRL Trustee re: Hoopla limits, Jan. 15/17	69
ii. Email from R. Bonanno, Executive Director to customer [REDACTED] re: Hoopla limits, Jan. 20/17	70
iii. Letter from T. Sullivan, CAO, District of Sooke to R. Bonanno re: Vancouver Island Regional Library facility in the District of Sooke, Jan. 27/17	71
iv. Letter from M. Hicks, CRD Director, VIRL Trustee and Chair of SEAPARC to R. Bonanno re: SEAPARC partnership with VIRL, Feb. 2/17	72
v. Letter from Board Chair B. Avis to Hon. M. Bernier, Ministry of Education, re: Support for Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Report on the Budget 2017 Consultations, Feb. 6/17	73
vi. Email from customer [REDACTED] to VIRL Board of Trustees re: location of new Sooke library, Feb. 23/17	75
vii. Email from Board Chair B. Avis to customer [REDACTED] re: location of new Sooke library, March 3/17	77
viii. Email from customer [REDACTED] to VIRL Board of Trustees re: Sooke library site, Feb. 26/17	78
ix. Email from Board Chair B. Avis to customer [REDACTED] re: Sooke library site, March 3/17	79
x. Email from customer [REDACTED] to D. Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications, re: New Sooke library, Feb. 27/17	80
xi. Email from Board Chair B. Avis to customer [REDACTED] re: New Sooke library, March 3/17	81
xii. Email from customer [REDACTED] to VIRL Board of Trustees re: Sooke's new library, Feb. 27/17	82



**Board of Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2017
Agenda**

c) Correspondence (Cont'd)	
xiii. Email from Board Chair B. Avis to customer [REDACTED] re: Sooke's new library, March 3/17	83
d) Media Releases	84
i. <i>Score with Reading</i> at Nanaimo Harbourfront Library! Jan. 30/17	85
ii. Executive Committee and Officers of Library Board Elected at 2017 Annual General Meeting, Jan. 31/17	87
iii. New Nanaimo Wellington branch coming to Central Nanaimo this Spring, Feb. 20/17	89
iv. Buds to Blossoms cultivates new connections on Gabriola Island, Feb. 23/17	90
v. Renovated library for the community of Sidney is underway, March 10/17	91

9. In Camera

10. Adjournment

Next Meetings:

April 28, 2017 – Executive Committee

May 27, 2017 – Board of Trustees



Board of Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2017
Item 3 (a)

**Regular Minutes of the
January 21, 2017
Board of Trustees Meeting**

For Approval



Board of Trustees Meeting
Annual General Meeting/Regular Minutes – *UNAPPROVED*
January 21, 2017

Dodd Narrows Room
Vancouver Island Convention Centre, Nanaimo BC

Present:

Ron Kerr, Campbell River	Barry Avis, Qualicum Beach
Hugh MacKinnon, Comox	Sabrina Frazier, Queen Charlotte
Manno Theos, Courtenay	Janett Hoare, Sayward
Tom Duncan, Duncan	Randy Taylor, Tahsis
Gordon Waterman, Gold River	Al Anderson, Tofino
Steve Arnett, Ladysmith	Marilyn McEwen, Ucluelet
Lorna Vomacka, Lake Cowichan	Candace Faulkner, Zeballos
Will Geselbracht, Lantzville	Barb Lewis, Zeballos (Alternate)
Jason Thompson, Masset	Lucas Banton, Alberni / Clayoquot RD
Diane Brennan, Nanaimo	Mike Hicks, Capital RD
Jack Thornburgh, North Saanich	Frank Johnson, Central Coast RD
Mary Beil, Parksville	Rod Nichol, Comox Valley RD
Sharie Minions, Port Alberni	Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley RD
Jan Allen, Port Alice	Heidi Soltau, Mount Waddington RD
Charleen O'Brien Anderson, Port Clements (Alternate)	Howard Houle, Nanaimo RD
Fred Robertson, Port Hardy	Carol Wagner, North Coast RD (Alternate)
Shelley Downey, Port McNeill (Alternate)	Brenda Leigh, Strathcona RD

Regrets:

Sean Sullivan, Cumberland	Kerrie Reay, Sooke
Kate Marsh, North Cowichan	Merrick Anderson, Powell River RD
Erin Bremner-Mitchell, Sidney	

Staff:

Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director
Joel Adams, Director of Finance
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services & Planning
Lis Pedersen, Director of Human Resources
Geoffrey Allen, Divisional Manager, Innovative Technologies and Collections
Melanie Barnum, Divisional Manager, Office of the Executive Director
Taryn Barrie, Human Resources Officer
Natasha Bartlett, Marketing and Communications Officer
Jennifer Bond, Business Administrator
David Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications
David Derby, Divisional Manager, IT
Wayne Hartley, Divisional Manager, Human Resources – Safety
Jason Kuffler, CSL II, Nanaimo Harbourfront branch
Lee Lively, Divisional Manager, Facilities
Heather Mink Zuvich, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Carol Mitchell, Divisional Manager, Public Services
Mariah Patterson, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am.

a) Opening Remarks

Welcome to Trustees and acknowledgement of the Snuneymuxw First Nations territory.

Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director acting as Chair until elections are held.

b) Roll call

As above.

2. Agenda

a) Items to be removed from Consent Business

None.

b) Additions or Deletions

None.

c) Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Barry Avis / seconded by Tom Duncan that the agenda be approved by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

Mary Marcotte and Shelley Downey arrived at 9:40 am.

Steve Arnett left the meeting at 9:45 am and returned at 10:30 am.

3. Trustee Orientation Presentation

Motion: Moved by Barry Avis / seconded by Mary Beil that the *Trustee Orientation Presentation* be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

Meeting recessed: 10:53 am

Meeting reconvened: 11:06 am

Manno Theos left the meeting at 10:50 am and returned at 11:33 am

4. Special Reports

a) 2017 Nominations Report

Motion: Moved by Hugh MacKinnon / seconded by Mary Beil that the *2017 Nominations Report* be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

5. Elections

a) Election of Chair

The Nominating Committee put forth two nominations for the position of Chair: Barry Avis (Town of Qualicum Beach) and Brenda Leigh (Strathcona Regional District). Rosemary Bonanno called three times for nominations from the floor, no additional nominations were heard.

Winning the majority vote, Barry Avis was elected Chair.

b) Election of Vice-Chair

The Nominating Committee put forth two nominations for the position of Vice-Chair: Howard Houle (Nanaimo Regional District) and Kerrie Reay (District of Sooke). Rosemary Bonanno called for nominations from the floor. Nominations received from the floor as follows:

Brenda Leigh (Strathcona Regional District) accepted a nomination by Gordon Waterman.

Winning the majority vote, Brenda Leigh was elected Vice-Chair.

c) Election of the Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee put forth 5 nominations for the Executive Committee:

Steve Arnett (Town of Ladysmith)
Bill Beldessi (North Coast Regional District)
Diane Brennan (City of Nanaimo)
Ron Kerr (City of Campbell River)
Gordon Waterman (Village of Gold River)

Rosemary Bonanno called for nominations from the floor:

Tom Duncan (City of Duncan) accepted a nomination by Barry Avis.

Howard Houle (Nanaimo Regional District) accepted a nomination by Steve Arnett.

Diane Brennan nominated Kerrie Reay (District of Sooke).

Jason Thompson (Village of Masset) accepted a nomination by Sabrina Frazier.

Trustees Steve Arnett, Bill Beldessi, Diane Brennan, Tom Duncan, Howard Houle, Ron Kerr, Kerrie Reay, Jason Thompson and Gordon Waterman were elected to the 2017 Executive Committee.

Barry Avis assumed the role of Chair and Brenda Leigh assumed the role of Vice-Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6. In Camera

Motion: Moved by Sabrina Frazier / seconded by Ron Kerr that the meeting move
Regular Agenda March 13, 2017 - Supplemental Page 25

Diane Brennan left the meeting at 11:56 am

Mary Marcotte left the meeting at 11:59 am

7. Minutes

a) Regular Minutes of the November 26, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting – for approval

Motion: Moved by Hugh MacKinnon / seconded by Tom Duncan that the *regular minutes of the November 26, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting* be approved by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

8. Delegations

a) Ernie Gorrie, BC Government and Service Employees' Union

Motion: Moved by Gordon Waterman / seconded by Tom Duncan that the delegation be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

9. Business Arising

None.

10. Finance

a) November 2016 Finance Report

Motion: Moved by Gordon Waterman / seconded by Brenda Leigh that the *November 2016 Finance Report* be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

b) November 2016 Reserves Report

Motion: Moved by Al Anderson / seconded by Tom Duncan that the *November 2016 Reserves Report* be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

c) Facility Projects Update

Motion: Moved by Mary Beil / seconded by Gordon Waterman that the *Facility Projects Update* be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

d) 2017 – 2021 Adopted Financial Plan

Motion: Moved by Candace Faulkner / seconded by Hugh MacKinnon that the *2017 – 2021 Adopted Financial Plan* presentation be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

11. New Business

a) Hometown Hockey

Jason Kuffler, CSL II, Nanaimo Harbourfront Branch

Motion: Moved by Tom Duncan / seconded by Gordon Waterman that the verbal presentation, *Hometown Hockey*, be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

Manno Theos and Jack Thornburgh left the meeting at 1:00 pm

12. Consent Business

Motion: Moved by Tom Duncan / seconded by Gordon Waterman that all *Consent Business* be received by the Board of Trustees. Carried.

13. Public Participation Period

No public participants.

14. Adjournment – 1:02 pm

Motion: Moved by Tom Duncan / seconded by Mary Beil that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.



Board of Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2017
Item 3 (b)

**Regular Minutes of the
March 2, 2017
Executive Committee Meeting**

For Receipt



**Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes - *UNAPPROVED*
March 2, 2017**

**Nanaimo North Branch, Boardroom
6250 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo**

Present:

Barry Avis, Qualicum Beach (Chair)
Brenda Leigh, Strathcona RD (Vice-Chair)
Gordon Waterman, Gold River
Steve Arnett, Ladysmith

Kerrie Reay, Sooke
Howard Houle, Nanaimo RD
Bill Beldessi, North Coast RD

Regrets:

Tom Duncan, Duncan
Ron Kerr, Campbell River

Diane Brennan, Nanaimo
Jason Thompson, Masset

Staff:

Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director
Joel Adams, Director of Finance
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services & Planning
Lis Pedersen, Director of Human Resources
Melanie Barnum, Divisional Manager, Office of the Executive Director
Heather Mink Zuvich, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

a) Opening remarks

b) Roll call

As above.

2. Agenda

a) Items to be removed from Consent Business

None.

b) Additions or deletions

None.

c) Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Howard Houle / seconded by Steve Arnett that the Agenda be approved by the Executive Committee. Carried.

3. Minutes

a) October 21, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Moved by Howard Houle / seconded by Gordon Waterman that the regular minutes of the October 21, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting be approved by the Executive Committee. Carried.

b) January 21, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Motion: Moved by Howard Houle / seconded by Bill Beldessi that the regular minutes of the January 21, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

4. Business Arising

a) Revisions to the Board Procedural By-Law

Motion: Moved by Brenda Leigh / seconded by Howard Houle that the Executive Committee receive the revised *Board Procedural By-Law*. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Brenda Leigh / seconded by Kerrie Reay that staff make the suggested revisions to the *Board Procedural By-Law* and provide it to the Executive Committee at their next meeting on April 28, 2017 for review. Carried.

b) Board Policy: Delegations / Public Participation

Motion: Moved by Kerrie Reay / seconded by Brenda Leigh that the *Board Policy: Delegations / Public Participation* be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Kerrie Reay / seconded by Howard Houle that the Executive Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees rescind the *Delegations Policy*. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Gordon Waterman / seconded by Brenda Leigh that the Executive Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the revisions to the *Request to Appear as a Delegation* form. Carried.

5. Finance

a) 2017 Audit Service Plan

Motion: Moved by Bill Beldessi / seconded by Gordon Waterman that the *2017 Audit Service Plan* report be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

b) December 2016 Finance Report

Motion: Moved by Gordon Waterman / seconded by Howard Houle that the *December 2016 Finance Report* be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Steve Arnett / seconded by Brenda Leigh that staff draft a letter to provincial MLAs to apprise them of the decreases in provincial funding to libraries in B.C. and the increase in demand for the services that public libraries provide. Carried.

c) December 2016 Reserves Report

Motion: Moved by Kerrie Reay / seconded by Steve Arnett that the *December 2016 Reserves Report* be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

d) Facilities Projects Update

Motion: Moved by Gordon Waterman / seconded by Howard Houle that the *Facilities Project Update* report be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Brenda Leigh / seconded by Howard Houle that staff prepare an individual report regarding site recommendations for Sooke, to be presented at the next Board of Trustees meeting on March 18, 2017. Carried.

Meeting Recessed: 11:52 am
Meeting Reconvened: 12:00 pm

e) Presentation: Consolidated Facilities Master Plan & Facilities Policy

Motion: Moved by Kerrie Reay / seconded by Brenda Leigh to refer the *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan & Facilities Policy* presentation directly to the March 18, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting. Carried.

6. New Business

None.

7. Consent Business

Motion: Moved by Steve Arnett / seconded by Kerrie Reay that all *Consent Business* be received by the Executive Committee. Carried.

8. In Camera

Motion: Moved by Howard Houle / seconded by Gordon Waterman that the Executive Committee meeting move In Camera. Carried.

9. Adjournment – 1:29 pm

Motion: Moved by Gordon Waterman / seconded by Howard Houle that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.



Board Policy: Delegations / Public Participation

Recommendation:

The Executive Committee recommends:

That the Board of Trustees receive the *Board Policy: Delegations / Public Participation*; and

That the Board of Trustees rescind the *Delegations* policy; and

That the Board of Trustees approve the revisions to the *Request to appear as a Delegation* form.

Background

As part of the review of Board policies and procedures, the information contained in the *Board Policy: Delegations / Public Participation* has been embedded in the *Request to Appear as a Delegation* form. All proposed revisions are indicated by red font.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director

Joel Adams, CA CPA
Director of Finance

Jamie Anderson, BA MLIS
Director of Library Services & Planning

Lis Pedersen, DSW BSW
Director of Human Resources



Board Policy

Delegations / Public Participation

Delegations / Public Participation

Delegations

The purpose of this policy is to recognize the importance of members of the public being able to express their viewpoints and opinions on library issues. Therefore, the Library Board provides the opportunity for members of the public to meet with the Board directly as “delegations” at regular public meetings of the Board. People can provide input either as individuals, or as a representative of a group.

In order to appear as a delegation, the following conditions must be met:

1. Written requests to speak as a delegation must be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Director at least five (5) business days prior to the date of the Board meeting. The request must include details in full of the issue to be addressed and the name of person or organization to be represented. The Board meeting schedule is available at www.virl.bc.ca.
2. The Board reserves the right to request additional information regarding a particular issue.
3. Delegations will be provided with a maximum of 10 minutes to make a presentation to the Board. No more than two persons per delegation may speak to address one issue.
4. The Board reserves the right to limit the number of delegations per meeting.
5. Delegations may choose to remain for the balance of the public meeting, but may not speak to other items on the agenda.
6. The Board, through the Executive Director, will communicate a response.

Public Participation Period

The purpose of the public participation period is to allow members of the public to provide input or to ask questions, and is not an opportunity for debate with the Board or individual board members.

1. Comments and questions must be addressed to the Chair, not individual board members. Where it is not practical to provide a verbal response, a response will be provided later by letter.
2. If the Board considers that a matter raised during the public participation period requires action or further discussion, the Board may choose to refer the item to a future meeting.

Board Policy
Delegations / Public Participation

3. Members of the public wishing to speak will form a line and wait until they are recognized by the Chair prior to speaking.
4. In the interests of allowing all individuals an opportunity to be heard, each individual will be allowed to speak for two minutes at a time. However, an individual may speak again, if time allows and there are no individuals waiting who have not yet had an opportunity to speak.
5. Individuals must state their name and resident address.
6. Robert's Rules of Order will apply to the public participation period.



Request to Appear as a Delegation

Applications and **a copy of any printed material(s) for distribution** must be submitted at least **5 full business days** in advance of the meeting.

Date of Application:		Date of Presentation:	
Presenter Name:			
Company/Organization:			
Street address:			
City:		Province:	Postal Code:
Email:			
Home Phone:		Business Phone:	
Fax:		Website:	
Name of Applicant if other than above:			
Details of Presentation:			
Note: Presentation to be a maximum of 5 minutes.			
I will be providing a PowerPoint, images or video for my presentation: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
I will have printed material for distribution: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/> I have read <i>VIRL Board Procedural By-Law Section 5: Conduct of the Public and Delegations.</i> (see over)			

Send the completed form to the attention of the Executive Director via:

Email: executivedirector@virl.bc.ca

Fax: 250-758-2482

Mail: 6250 Hammond Bay Road

PO Box 3333

Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5N3



Request to Appear as a Delegation

Excerpt from VIRL Board Procedural By-Law (Section 5)

Conduct of the Public

Members of the public will be courteous and will not engage in any action which disturbs the meeting. Members of the public will not:

- a. make any noise or disturbance that prevents Trustees from being able to participate in the meeting;
- b. address the Board without permission;
- c. use unparliamentary or offensive language; or
- d. display signs or placards.

The Chair may exclude any person from the meeting for improper conduct.

Delegations

The Library Board provides the opportunity for members of the public to meet with the Board directly as "delegations" at regular public meetings of the Board. People can provide input either as individuals, or as a representative of a group.

Written requests to speak as a delegation must be submitted in writing, to the Executive Director prior to 4:30pm, five (5) business days prior to the date of the Board meeting. The request must include details in full of the issue to be addressed and the name of the person or organization to be represented.

All materials, presentations or handouts shall accompany the written request to appear and is subject to approval by the Executive Director.

Written request forms shall be available at all libraries and on the website. Forms may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the Office of the Executive Director.

No person other than the designated spokesperson may speak on the matter and for no longer than a total of five (5) minutes.

An individual or group not on the agenda and not appearing in respect to a matter on the agenda shall not be heard without the consent of at least two-thirds of the Trustees present.

The Library Board reserves the right to approve a delegation, refuse a delegation, or request additional information before granting delegation status and depending on the nature of the concern, the Board may refer delegations or correspondence to the Executive Director for further review or resolution.



January 2017 Finance Report

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends:

That the *January 2017 Finance Report* be received by the Board of Trustees.

Background

Results to January 31, 2017 are presented for information. These reports do not follow the same format as annual audited statements as the focus is more on day to day operations. VIRL's Revenues are predictable and therefore accurately represented. The January financial results reflect that operational revenues are in line with expectations and that expenditures are below budget.

The financial position of an operating surplus of \$387,038 is due to underspending in certain areas, primarily salaries and wages due to gaps in filling vacant positions. At the end of January \$22,956 in reserve funded expenditures had been made but no corresponding transfers from the reserves have been recognized in revenue, as transfers are made when projects are substantially complete. Additionally, certain expenditures such as insurance and software licensing are paid on an annual basis at the beginning of the year.

Statement 1 – Balance Sheet

At the end of January the balance sheet shows that VIRL continues to have healthy reserves and sufficient operational funds. Cash and investments were approximately \$6.3 million at the end of January of which \$4.7 million represented reserve funds and the remainder operating funds. The refundable deposits relate primarily to security deposits included in rental agreements. Accounts receivable relates primarily to quarterly assessments which have not been received, but the corresponding revenue has been recognized, as well as refundable GST. As always we hold a small inventory of promotional sale items. Prepaid expenses represent the portion of contracts and other items that have been paid in 2017 but relate to services in future years.

We have a small amount of trade accounts payable, representing operating liabilities at January 31. MFA Long Term Debt represents debt incurred for capital projects at the Nanaimo North, Nanaimo Harbourfront and Lake Cowichan branches.

The current year position shown in the surplus/equity section is acceptable. This statement also reflects capital accounts in order to deal with amortization as required by Public Sector accounting standards.

The 2016 year-end is still in progress so there will be some adjustments to these accounts. Currently, approximately \$17.6 million of our \$43.8 million in assets have been amortized.

The cost to replace those assets would be significantly above the original cost due to inflation. Long term plans need to provide funding for these replacements. We are now beginning year seven of a fifteen-year funding requirement. Regular replacement of our base materials puts VIRL in a good position for the future.

Statements 2, 3, 4 - Revenue and Expenditures

January 31 represents the first of twelve months, so the target expenditures to date are 8%. Significant items affecting the operating surplus of \$387,038 at the end of January include:

- Total expenditures were below budget, representing 4% of total budget for the year. Operating expenditures are slightly below budget at 6% of total budget for the year.
- A total of \$22,956 in reserve funded expenditures has been made. Corresponding transfers will be recognized upon substantial completion of the projects.
- Levies to members are recognized on a monthly basis and represent 8% of the annual budget
- None of the Provincial grants for the year have been received to date
- Wages and benefit costs are slightly below budget at 7%
- Office, Postage, Utilities and Communications are under budget
- Building Maintenance costs are below budget
- Computer costs are slightly above budget due to increased costs for software licenses related to the delivery of library services
- As the invoice was not received by January 31, no insurance expense has been recognized to date
- Appropriations are recognized quarterly and so no transactions have been recorded to date
- Library Materials are slightly over budget at 11%, consistent with the method of purchasing materials, which is higher during the beginning of the year
- Travel and Vehicle operation expenses are at a reasonable level and slightly under budget

Conclusion

VIRL's finances indicate that results are in line with expectations and significant projects are currently either complete or underway.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Adams, CPA CA
Director of Finance

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

Statement 1

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**January 31, 2017****Unaudited****ASSETS**

Cash and Investments		6,287,260
Refundable Deposits		18,978
Accounts Receivable - Assessments		421,545
Accounts Receivable - Other		78,329
Inventory		2,160
Prepaid Expenses		484,088
Current Assets		7,292,362
Buildings	19,576,734	
Accumulated Amortization - Buildings	(1,995,902)	17,580,832
Furniture and Equipment	4,813,092	
Accumulated Amortization - Furniture and Equipment	(3,199,870)	1,613,222
Computer Equipment	3,577,356	
Accumulated Amortization - Computer Equipment	(3,167,472)	409,885
Vehicles	335,219	
Accumulated Amortization - Vehicles	(221,606)	113,614
Books	14,021,851	
Accumulated Amortization - Books	(8,277,161)	5,744,689
Leasehold Improvements	1,138,491	
Accumulated Amortization - Leasehold Improvements	(778,885)	359,606
Land		295,731
Fixed Assets		26,117,579
Total Assets		33,409,940

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable		63,414
Reserves		4,740,024
Wages & Deductions Payable		1,450,332
Friends Groups Fundraising		16,327
Deferred Revenue Fundraising		167,457
MFA Long Term Debt		16,526,867
Total Liabilities		22,964,421

SURPLUS / EQUITY

Opening Surplus	(16,059,296)	(16,059,296)
Surplus (Deficit) Year to Date	-	387,038
Current Year excluding Amortization	387,038	
Total Surplus to Date		(15,672,258)

Equity in Assets		26,117,777
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Total Surplus - Equity in Assets		10,445,518
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VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY**Statement 2****For The 1 Month Ending January 31, 2017****STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE****UNAUDITED**

	ANNUAL BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	YTD = 8%	Variance
	\$	\$		\$
<u>REVENUE</u>				
Levies to Members	21,247,495	1,770,624	8%	(19,476,871)
Prov Rev Share and Per Capita	1,307,232	-	0%	(1,307,232)
General Revenue	55,000	2,608	5%	(52,392)
Library Generated Revenue	407,156	37,070	9%	(370,086)
	23,016,883	1,810,303	8%	(21,206,580)
Draws on Reserves	4,316,822	-	0%	(4,316,822)
Grant Revenue	-	8,800	0%	8,800
MFA Borrowing	8,250,000	-	0%	(8,250,000)
	35,583,705	1,819,103	5%	(33,764,602)
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Operating Expenses	24,408,235	1,409,109	6%	(22,999,126)
Projects and Reserve Spending	11,175,470	22,956	0%	(11,152,514)
	35,583,705	1,432,065	4%	(34,151,640)
<u>NET POSITION</u>	-	387,038		387,038

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY**Statement 3****EXPENDITURES BY NATURE OF EXPENSE****For The 1 Month Ending January 31, 2017****Unaudited**

	ANNUAL BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	YTD = 8%	VARIANCE
Wages & Benefits	13,119,260	857,274	7%	12,261,986
Office, Photocopier & Supplies	234,667	3,241	1%	231,426
Postage, Mail & Courier	131,666	1,072	1%	130,594
Utilities and Telecommunications	130,956	2,511	2%	128,445
Computer Costs	470,666	45,048	10%	425,618
Building and Equipment Maintenance	146,746	7,773	5%	138,972
Travel and Vehicle Operation	332,863	13,206	4%	319,657
Training and Workshops	85,580	75	0%	85,506
Consulting and Professional Fees	195,711	250	0%	195,461
Insurance	141,780	0	0%	141,780
Promotion and Advertising	78,156	1,677	2%	76,479
Appropriations	2,809,816	2,160	0%	2,807,656
Branch Costs	3,853,430	196,000	5%	3,657,430
Library Materials	2,597,768	270,067	10%	2,327,701
Bank and Service Charges	79,171	6,022	8%	73,149
Friends and Fundraised expended	-	962	0%	(962)
Grants flow through	-	1,772	0%	(1,772)
OPERATING BUDGET	24,408,235	1,409,109	6%	22,999,126
Projects and Reserve Spending	11,175,470	22,956	0%	11,152,514
Total Expenditures	35,583,705	1,432,065	4%	34,151,640

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY**Statement 4****EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT****For The 1 Month Ending January 31, 2017****Unaudited**

	ANNUAL BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	YTD = 8%	VARIANCE
Executive Director's Office	121,595	31,193	26%	90,402
Board Expenses	102,000	13,114	13%	88,886
Systems & Networks	865,984	47,198	5%	818,786
Communication Strategic Initiative	453,353	21,865	5%	431,488
Technical Services	703,391	51,570	7%	651,821
Finance Accounting	597,382	24,088	4%	573,294
Purchasing	272,143	11,780	4%	260,363
Central Services Facility	252,550	0	0%	252,550
Branch Costs	4,209,729	215,513	5%	3,994,216
Shipping & Receiving	404,797	13,097	3%	391,700
Employee Benefits	2,867,833	147,010	5%	2,720,823
Human Resources	405,263	17,533	4%	387,730
Materials	2,490,300	281,985	11%	2,208,315
Inter-Library Loans	6,500	48	1%	6,452
Library Branch Services	7,845,599	528,222	7%	7,317,377
Appropriations	2,809,816	2,160	0%	2,807,656
Friends and Fundraised expended	0	962	0%	(962)
Grant Expenses	0	1,772	0%	(1,772)
OPERATING BUDGET	24,408,235	1,409,109	6%	22,999,126
Projects and Reserve Spending	11,175,470	22,956	0%	11,152,514
Total Expenditures	35,583,705	1,432,065	4%	34,151,640



January 2017 Reserves Report

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends:

That the *January 2017 Reserves Report* be received by the Board of Trustees.

Background

The Board is provided with updated Reserves information each meeting. The report shows all activity in the reserves for the year to the date of preparation. Interest earned is credited to each reserve as it is received. As appropriations to reserves are recognized on a quarterly basis, as of January 31 there have been no appropriations recorded. Transfers from reserves are recorded when projects are substantially complete.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of this is in the ability of Vancouver Island Regional Library to meet its long term planning objectives.

Communication Plan

None required.

Related to the Strategic Plan

This report relates to our strategic priority on communication with stakeholders in general, and to the other priorities where financing to accomplish plans will affect our ability to deliver quality services, facilities and operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Adams, CPA CA
Director of Finance

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director

Vancouver Island Regional Library

Reserve Balances as at January 31, 2017

#60100-2226	Reserve for Outfitting New/Expanded Facilities	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		2,675,655
Contributions into reserve	1,562,231	-
Interest earned		1,152
Drawdown for expenditures	(2,730,720)	-
January Balance		2,676,807

This reserve is used to fund projects for new and upgraded branches as part of the Consolidated Facilities Master Plan, including construction costs, shelving, furnishings, equipment, and repayment of MFA borrowings.

#60100-2224	Reserve for Long Term Maintenance	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		1,347,941
Contributions into reserve	685,185	-
Interest earned		478
Drawdown for Expenditures	(805,000)	-
January Balance		1,348,419

This reserve, first established in 2005, is funded by the levies under the CFMP. It is dedicated to expenditures related to facilities maintenance, as well as smaller renovations at branches.

#60100-2225	Reserve for Furnishings and Equipment	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		114,550
Contributions into reserve	250,000	-
Interest earned		81
Drawdown for expenditures	(250,000)	-
January Balance		114,631

This reserve is for the replacement of furnishings and equipment in the branches and Administration.

#60100-2227	Reserve for Vehicle Replacement	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		119,212
Contributions into reserve	30,000	-
Interest earned		42
Drawdown for expenditures		-
January Balance		119,255

This reserve is for the replacement of VIRL's vehicles. It allows for the replacement of vans and trucks as required. Practice is to replace at 10 years or 300,000 kilometers, whichever occurs first. VIRL maintains a fleet of vehicles of which two were replaced in 2010 with one replaced in each of 2011 and 2012. VIRL has ordered a replacement vehicle which will be received in early 2017, at which time the related draw down from this reserve will occur.

#60100-2201	Reserve for Materials	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		10,340
January Balance		10,340

This reserve is funded by under spending in the materials budget. As reported to the Board in September of 2012 the reserve is now dedicated to opening day collections for new branches until it is exhausted.

#60100-2207	Prior Year Reserves	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		2,488
Drawdown for expenditures		-
January Balance		2,488

This reserve has been committed to update the Intranet.

#60100-2210	Reserve for Summer Employment	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		3,214
Interest earned		1
January Balance		3,215

This reserve relates to employment of a summer student interested in pursuing a library-related career. VRIL continues to explore options to use these funds towards this program.

#60100-2212	Reserve for Systems and Network Replacement	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		95,389
Contributions into reserve	236,500	-
Interest earned		68
Drawdown for expenditures	(300,000)	-
January Balance		95,457

This reserve is for the replacement of personal computers, workstations, circulation, and other electronic based equipment.

#60100-2213	Reserve for Integrated Library System Replacement	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		22,724
Interest earned		8
Drawdown for expenditures		-
January Balance		22,732

This reserve is for the replacement of the Integrated Library System, the basic platform upon which the Library Lending System operates from.

#60100-2222	Reserve for Human Resources	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		68,237
Interest earned		24
January Balance		68,261

This reserve was established with approval of the Board in 2005 for the purpose of settling Human Resource issues.

#60100-2223	Reserve for Compensated Absences	
	2017 Budget	Actual To January 31
Previous Year Balance		278,322
Interest Earned		99
January Balance		278,421

This reserve was established under public section accounting standards to cover costs associated with the use of accrued employee sick leave in the event of a widespread or catastrophic illness that affects VIRT staff. This reserve will only be withdrawn in the event that a significant amount of accrued sick leave is used in a short amount of time. It is not used to cover normal use of accrued sick leave. At the end of 2015, \$343,200 was recorded as a liability in the financial statements, representing accrued sick leave earned by employees as at that date.

TOTAL - Reserves as at January 31, 2017: **\$4,740,024**



Facility Projects Update

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends:

That the *Facility Projects Update* report be received by the Board of Trustees.

Facilities projects in progress are reported below:

- **Chemainus**

After the VIRL Board made its preferences known in March of 2012, North Cowichan amended their plans and advised they may be providing another site (the old fire hall site). On February 22, 2016 VIRL received confirmation from the Municipality of North Cowichan that council supports the transfer of a lot at 9796 Willow St. (old Fire Hall Site) to VIRL for a stand-alone library under a restrictive covenant permitting library use only. The proposed lot would be large enough to accommodate a 5,000 sq. ft. branch with minimal parking. Staff met with North Cowichan representatives on April 25 to discuss how to move forward with this project. In May, an environmental consultant provided a letter of clearance noting the lot is not contaminated.

VIRL has requested that the CVRD obtain a loan from MFA to fund the cost of construction. An agreement will be signed that states VIRL will be responsible for the repayments on the debt. On September 14, the CVRD gave 3rd reading to the 2 bylaws, which were approved by the Inspector of Municipalities in October. The CVRD has set the deadline for responses under the alternate approval process as January 23, 2017. This deadline has passed, with only 4 responses against the proposal. On January 25, the CVRD board met and adopted the bylaws.

A public consultation session was held on January 9. This session was very well attended by the community, and included input into the new building in a number of areas, as well as positive feedback from the community on this project.

- **Masset**

Discussion continues on land for a potential new branch. On April 20, Masset advised VIRL that the transfer of a parcel of land had been identified and approved for the purpose of building a new library. VIRL staff are engaging with Masset to discuss the process for moving forward on this project. VIRL is working with Masset staff to ensure the required environmental assessment and survey work is prepared for the site before proceeding with the project. VIRL staff are currently planning a trip for the spring to view the site and meet with local representatives to discuss the project.

- **Nanaimo Wellington**

A budget of \$375,000 was included in the 2016 budget for leasehold improvements, furniture and equipment, and other associated costs for the Wellington branch to move from its current location to the Country Club Mall. At the November Board meeting, a budget increase to \$680,000 was approved, based on increased costs in the construction industry and the results of the RFP. CGI was the successful bidder for the construction. A construction kick-off meeting was held January 9th, and substantial completion of the renovation is scheduled for April 10, with the branch to open shortly after.

- **Parksville**

The City of Parksville advised that they intend to replace the flooring in the branch. VIRL sees this as an opportunity to undertake other maintenance projects. VIRL is working with Parksville staff to determine the timing and scope of the project.

- **Sooke / Juan de Fuca**

A separate report has been prepared to review the Sooke Building Project. See item 6 (e).

- **Sidney**

In October, VIRL received confirmation from Sidney that it wished to proceed with the renewal of a 10-year lease, which will allow VIRL to undertake a renovation at this branch. VIRL and Sidney have finalized the lease terms, and the planning for the renovation is underway. The first step is to perform a building envelope assessment, which will evaluate the key components of the existing branch and help to determine where renovation work is required. A public consultation session is tentatively scheduled for March 22.

- **North Saanich**

On November 23, VIRL received a letter from North Saanich in support of transferring land to VIRL for the purpose of constructing a new branch at the Panorama centre. VIRL is working with North Saanich staff to ensure this project moves forward. A public consultation is tentatively scheduled for spring 2017, with the aim of securing a loan through MFA in fall 2017. An alternative approval process will need to occur to support the loan, which will likely occur in summer 2017.

- **Tofino**

In January 2013, VIRL received a letter with copy of resolution "That Council direct staff to advise Vancouver Island Regional Library that the District is soon to be undertaking a Civic Centre feasibility study, and that the District is hoping to include a library as a consideration in that plan." There has been some contact with the planners engaged by the community. On July 4, 2014, Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno attended a preplanning exercise in Tofino. This process will likely take several years. A presentation was recently made by VIRL staff to the Tofino Council on March 7 2016 regarding the facility decision process for VIRL.

No additional updates are available at this time.

- **Tahsis**

Structural improvements to the Municipal Hall for the library to stay at its current location were not found to be economically feasible for the Village. In consultation with staff from the Village and School District 84 the Captain Meares School was identified as an alternative location that would meet our load and facility requirements. Staff went to Tahsis to inspect the proposed site, a wing of the existing school building that is closed to the students and can be converted into a satisfactory space. A seniors group occupies an adjacent classroom. Staff believes this is the best alternative solution and negotiations have now been completed on the costs for a ten year lease.

VIRL and School District 84 staff has tentatively agreed to the following:

- A lease agreement for a period of 10 years commencing April 1, 2017
- Monthly rent of \$1,050 to include the costs for utilities and the additional janitorial costs based on the current opening hours of the branch. A 2% annual escalation will apply for the term of the lease
- VIRL will perform the necessary renovations
- The library will consist of two existing classrooms totaling approximately 1,500 square feet, plus a bathroom, a separate entrance to the branch and the ability to install an exterior book drop
- Parking is available at the proposed entrance to the branch by way of a partially paved, partially gravel lot

The School District provided a report on hazardous materials assessment at the school, which found asbestos in some of the test areas. VIRL is working with the School District to determine the impact. On August 23, VIRL staff and staff from the architect visited the school to take measurements and other tasks to assist in moving the project forward. In November, a detailed hazardous materials assessment was received, which allowed the architect to move forward with planning. The contract for the renovation will be publicly tendered shortly.

- **Woss**

On June 10, VIRL staff met with representatives from the Mount Waddington Regional District and School District 85 to review a potential site at Woss Lake Elementary School. VIRL is in contact with these parties to develop an estimate of the construction costs required to convert one of the classrooms to a library and relocate the existing branch, and to determine how a lease could be structured that meets all requirements.

On August 30, VIRL met with representatives from the regional and school district. The items discussed included the significant repairs needed to the roof, and the results of a 2009 asbestos survey which found asbestos in the crawl space. On September 22, the school district identified that they are unable to undertake costs related to these items.

No further updates are available at this time.

Economic Impact

In 2010 the Board approved additional levies for the funding of facilities and correction of deferred maintenance issues, and affirmed this again in September 2016 with adoption of the 2017 budget.

Related to the Strategic Plan

Principle 3 – Places & Spaces: Vancouver Island Regional Library branches will be welcoming places and community hubs for the informational, inspirational, cultural, and recreational needs and interests of our diverse customers and communities. One of the ways we plan to reach this goal is by creating larger, fully accessible and welcoming branches.

It is also related to our **Values – Stewardship & Accountability** – in which VIRL has been entrusted with public resources, and we optimize these resources through responsible and effective management and fiscal integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director

Joel Adams, CPA CA
Director of Finance



Sooke Building Project

Recommendation:

The Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Library Services and Planning and the Executive Director, recommends:

That the *Sooke Building Project* report be received by the Board of Trustees; and

That the Board of Trustees choose one of the two options presented for the Sooke branch.

Background

The Sooke branch was identified as the top priority in the Consolidated Facilities Master Plan (CFMP), as at the time of the report it was, and continues to be, the most under-serviced VIRL location with the largest population growth. The current Sooke branch is approximately 3,700 square feet, with a lease that expires December 31, 2018. As per VIRL's Facility Policy, the new branch for Sooke/Juan de Fuca would be between 10,000 – 13,000 square feet which would adequately serve the Sooke/Juan de Fuca communities. The bylaws which authorize borrowing for construction of a new branch expire on October 14, 2020. While that leaves approximately two and a half years, with the other considerations around timing and schedule, this is still a deadline that has an impact on the project.

Summary of Timeline

VIRL has been working with the District of Sooke since 2010 to site a new library that would support the informational and recreational needs of the community. In May 2012, a public consultation was conducted regarding the look and feel of the potential new branch. Dialogue has continued on and off over the course of the last five years.

In June 2015, VIRL posted an Expression of Interest (EOI) with the intention of identifying land in the Sooke area that could be suitable for construction of a new branch. This strategy was deployed in Cumberland and returned a design/build option that satisfied the needs of the community with the potential to develop a strata relationship with the developer in the future.

The Sooke EOI was for land between 45,000 to 65,000 square feet within close proximity to the Sooke Town Centre, with the stipulation for cleared land with less than a 5% slope over the entire property. There were 5 respondents to the EOI, but none of the responses were acceptable due to lot size, location, or price.

In late summer 2015, VIRL engaged a realtor to scan for other properties in the downtown area that had not been presented to us in the EOI. One of the properties identified was in the Town Centre, located on Wadams Road. As part of its process, VIRL undertook due diligence to investigate these potential sites. In discussions with District staff at the time, we were made aware that the District was pursuing the purchase of the Wadams Road property.

In October 2015, the Capital Regional District adopted bylaws that allowed VIRL to borrow up to \$6 million through the Municipal Finance Authority.

In February 2016, VIRL was advised the District of Sooke had completed the purchase of the Wadams Road property, with the intent that a portion be used as a site for a new library branch. The site is part of the Town Centre Plan (2050) so has future potential. However, the site is not shovel-ready and the topography is uneven. Further discussion with senior staff at the District of Sooke confirmed that they were not prepared to prep the site for construction. Shovel-ready land is the requirement when VIRL is given land by a member jurisdiction. In addition, development costs would also apply to this project. To proceed with this site would involve absorbing the site preparation and development costs into the project budget (\$1.1 to 1.2 million) which would impact branch size and other considerations. This would also represent a deviation from past practice that land is provided free and shovel-ready. All VIRL member jurisdictions would be paying for making the Wadams Road site shovel-ready.

VIRL continued discussions with Sooke staff throughout 2016, but given the estimated costs involved for site preparation and development costs, no agreement has been made to proceed with this site.

In late 2016, the Sooke and Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) proposed a potential site adjacent to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex on Philips Road in Sooke. The land would be provided to VIRL for free for the purpose of constructing a new library branch. Granted, it was not the first choice of either organization, but to move this project forward both organizations would need to compromise for the good of the project. This location would put the new branch adjacent to 1,000 homes, 2 schools, the Historical Society Museum and close proximity to the First Nations community.

Mike Hicks, Councillor/Trustee for Sooke/Juan De Fuca walked the site with Mayor Maja Tait and Councillor/Trustee Kerrie Reay on November 25, 2016 providing us the information about the facility, its capacity and usage patterns.

SEAPARC would also need to make compromises to site the library here. But they were willing to make them to move the project ahead. It was agreed that VIRL would have its architects view the site to determine if the site was suitable.

In January 2017, the District provided a letter to VIRL which states that Council believes the Wadams Road site is the “ideal location for a new library”. The letter also confirmed that they are not in a position to incur the costs required to clear the lot and ready it for construction.

In February 2017, VIRL received a letter from the Chair of SEAPARC which confirmed that the construction at SEAPARC is supported by the SEAPARC and the Capital Regional District. A feasibility study completed by VIRL’s architect concluded that a branch of approximately 11,000 square feet could be constructed on this site.

Economic Impact

The total preliminary estimate for site preparation and development costs at the Wadams Road site amount to approximately \$1.1 - \$1.2 million. Assuming a \$6 million budget, these costs represent 18% – 20% of the total budget.

In past building projects, VIRL has not been required to make payments related to site preparation or development costs. When the new Cowichan Lake branch was built, the land was provided ready to be built on. Aside from building permits and other minor costs anticipated as part of the budget, no payments were made to the Town of Lake Cowichan. This is similar to the site of the new Chemainus branch, where the land has been rezoned and subdivided and so is ready to be transferred to VIRL to commence construction. VIRL is in final discussions with Masset regarding their donation of free, shovel-ready land for development of their new branch. These projects do not require VIRL to incur costs related to land preparation or development.

There is some urgency for a decision, given the factors that significantly impact this project:

1. Expiry of the current lease

The lease for the current branch expires December 31, 2018. The landlord has advised that there is no option for renewal of the lease.

Construction timeline

VIRL’s architect estimates a minimum of 14 - 16 months for construction. Additionally, there are a number of activities which need to take place before construction can commence, including:

- Survey, geotechnical, and other site preparation work;
- Interior and exterior design;
- Obtaining the necessary permits;
- Public consultation; and
- Construction contract tendering, evaluation and awarding.

If a new branch is to be constructed, the work needs to begin as soon as possible to minimize the risk of a disruption of library service in Sooke.

If a site for a new branch is not confirmed by June 30, 2017 we will need to move forward with a retail space.

Retail space

VIRL needs to find an alternate retail space to house a branch. The branch size would decrease based on the leasing option as leasing 10,000 - 13,000 is not a prudent business decision.

Even if a retail space was found relatively quickly, it would still be a tight timeline. The space would require major refurbishments to make it suitable as a branch, and there is additional time required for removing the collection, furniture, equipment, and other items from the current branch, as well as set-up time for the new branch.

The process to find and outfit a suitable retail space is estimated to take a minimum of 10 - 12 months, as finding a space is estimated to take a minimum of 6 months, with an additional 6 months to undertake the necessary improvements to the new space.

If a new retail space is found, VIRL will revisit the option of a new branch in Sooke as the lease is coming up for renewal.

Options

Under VIRL's Facilities policy, the support of local government is one of the first steps in choosing a site for a new branch, and is crucial to ensure the success of a building project. From an outside perspective, VIRL sees that this is a sensitive issue, and is aware of feedback that indicates the SEAPARC site may not be the preference of Sooke residents or Council.

While it is not VIRL's normal practice to bring these matters before the Board, due to the circumstances discussed in this report it is prudent that the VIRL Board be made aware of these challenges and be given the opportunity to fully consider all options.

Based on the information above, 2 options are presented to the Board for consideration:

1. Proceed with the SEAPARC location. This site is not the first choice of the District, but would allow VIRL to provide increased library services to the Sooke community. There are no additional costs related to the land at SEAPARC. The land would be transferred or leased to VIRL, and pre-construction activities would commence.
2. Proceed with a retail space, with the understanding that a new branch will be considered again at the end of the lease term.

Communication Plan

Once a decision has been made the Divisional Manager of Communications will issue a press release.

Related to the Strategic Plan

Principle 1 – Community: Vancouver Island Regional Library will continue to expand engagement and partnership opportunities, as well as increase advertising and promotion to show that the library is a vibrant, welcoming place for people of all socioeconomic groups, cultures and literacy levels.

Principle 3 – Places & Spaces: Vancouver Island Regional Library branches will be welcoming places and community hubs for the informational, inspirational, cultural, and recreational needs and interests of our diverse customers and communities. One of the ways we plan to reach this goal is by creating larger, fully accessible and welcoming branches.

It is also related to our **Values – Stewardship & Accountability** – in which VIRL has been entrusted with public resources, and we optimize these resources through responsible and effective management and fiscal integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Adams, CPA, CA
Director of Finance

Jamie Anderson, BA MLIS
Director of Library Services & Planning

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director



VIHA Wellness Grant
Celebrating Girls, Celebrating Community:
Supporting Self Expression and Storytelling through the Creative Arts

Recommendation:

The Customer Services Librarian II, in consultation with the Director of Library Services and Planning and the Executive Director, recommends:

That the Board of Trustees receive the *VIHA Wellness Grant* report for information.

Background

On December 14, 2016 Vancouver Island Regional Library applied for a VIHA Wellness Grant to fund a program that targets at-risk, teen girls between the ages of 13 and 18. On February 3, 2017 VIRL was told that they were the successful recipient of one of the \$12,000 grants. The grant will help teen girls that struggle with mental health issues, challenges at home, self-esteem/body image issues, may be inactive or struggle to express themselves. These girls will be identified through our ongoing partnership with the Nanaimo Boys and Girls Club. They may also be low level readers and students with little to no experience with dance or the creative arts. Between September 2017 and April 2018 the girls will be instructed in dance two to three times a month (22 sessions total) for an hour and a half each session by Hannah Beach, the founder and director of the Ottawa-based *Dandelion Dance Company*. Hannah Beach is also an author, former social worker and a leading dance educator in Canada. Hannah is now based in Nanaimo and will instruct these teen girls on how to express themselves through dance.

Overwhelmingly, girls feel stronger after going through the Dandelion program and their extensive workshops. 100% of girls surveyed tell them that they have higher self-esteem from being involved in Dandelion. Through working with Hannah who is trained in attachment and dancing in a mixed community of girls exploring dance programming specifically geared to developing trust, creating boundaries, strong communication skills and leadership, they develop tremendous powers of self-awareness, and ultimately feel more confident and have stronger social/emotional skills.

The girls will also get instruction at the Harbourfront Library's Creativity Commons on writing, photography and photo editing, videography, sound recording and editing and book printing.

The girls will create at each session, host a performance of their dancing at the end of the eight months at the Vancouver Island University Theatre (with props and costumes they have made themselves) and create and print books about their journey in the library's Story Lab. Library staff will also receive instruction and training materials from Hannah so that this type of outreach can become part of our regular library programming.

Economic Impact

None.

Communication Plan

While this is not a program open to all VIRL customers, our community will want to know that such a program is happening. VIRL's Communications Department will send out a media release and will feature the program in the internal VIRL staff newsletter, *Off the Shelf*. VIHA has also requested that the librarian responsible for the program be interviewed for their website at the beginning, middle and end of the program citing real interest and passion from selection committee members who want to highlight the fact that they are funding such an innovative program.

Related to the Strategic Plan

The proposed program encompasses three of the four principles from our Strategic Plan, which are

- Community;
- Collect. Connect. Collaborate. Create; and
- Places and Spaces

The program will support the social/emotional and mental well-being of youth in the community. The process of creating and sharing stories and artistic pieces is a way to support and give young women a voice.

This is an outreach program that will give a vulnerable segment of our community a chance to explore their creativity in different ways in a safe and welcoming environment. This program aims to develop community members who possess self-confidence, self-expression, empathy, a distinct voice and leadership skills. These girls will increase their knowledge of various literacy forms and will come to see the library as a place of learning and creation. This in turn has a powerful effect on our community as these young women begin to see themselves as leaders and take part in activities in the community they may not have previously engaged in. It also benefits the community at large by having the voices of these young women included as part of its tapestry.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Kuffler, BA MAS MLIS
Customer Service Librarian II

Jamie Anderson, BA MLIS
Director of Library Services & Planning

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director



Performance Indicators & Branch Activity Reports

Available on the VIRL Trustee Portal:
<http://virltrustee.com/portal/2017-statistics/>



VIRL in the Media

Sidney's Mary Winspear Centre eyes library, more growth



By Peninsula News Review

Published: **January 14, 2017 11:00 AM**

Updated: **January 12, 2017 03:203 PM**

More library services are required on the Saanich Peninsula.

That was a finding almost two years ago by the Vancouver Island Regional Library service, which delivers library services to Sidney and North Saanich. They currently have one branch — in Sidney — and have been discussing options for expansion.

One of those options could be a partnership with the Mary Winspear Centre.

Late last year, the District of North Saanich discussed the option of possibly having a library branch at Panorama Recreation Centre, to facilitate the VIRL's desire to grow in the area. Those discussions were put on hold when the Mary Winspear Centre began speaking with library representatives.

Mary Winspear Centre Executive Director Brad Edgett confirmed they have been talking to officials with the VIRL about opportunities to locate a library at the community centre. While still in the very early stages of discussion, he said adding library space at the Centre could mesh well with their long-term expansion plans.

"The discussion centred around if there was an opportunity for a new library ... does it make sense to build a new one or have a branch at the Mary Winspear Centre?"

Edgett said they are a community cultural centre first and foremost.

"And one of the ways to grow," he continued, "is to be inclusive of all of our community partners."

With long-term plans to expand the Centre — Edgett said they could fill the space right now if they could — including a library might be a good fit.

"But it's very early days right now."

He added the VIRL has, in the meantime, renewed its lease with the Town of Sidney for its current space on Resthaven Drive. The VIRL has reported that the space is in need of improvements and/or expansion to meet the current demand for library services.

"We will continue talking with the VIRL," he said, "and put numbers on paper at some points and provide that information to both municipal councils."

The Memorial Park Society, which operated the Centre, changed trust documents last year that make expansion possible, Edgett added.

He said while most people will link that change with the Town's effort to locate its proposed new community safety building near the community hub, it was also done to give the Society more options.

Edgett said places like the Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula and Sidney Museum are also looking to expand — and could be part of any future expansion at the Mary Winspear Centre.

"We're not going anywhere. The Society has been here since 1921."

Edgett said he thinks there is a lot of potential now for the Centre to grow and fit in with the vision of both North Saanich and Sidney.

"All of this is very early," he said, "but it's important to know what's going on behind the scenes."

Find this article at:

<http://www.peninsulanewsreview.com/news/410580455.html>

By Sooke News Mirror

Published: **February 02, 2017 08:00 AM**

Updated: **February 01, 2017 11:4111 AM**

Sooke Coun. Kerrie Reay will serve another term on the Vancouver Island Regional Library board executive committee.

Reay was re-elected at the board's Jan. 21 meeting.

Nine members were elected to serve on the executive committee. Others elected to the committee include: Gordon Waterman (Village of Gold River); Bill Beldessi (North Coast Regional District); Howard Houle (Regional District of Nanaimo); Diane Brennan (City of Nanaimo); Jason Thompson (Village of Masset); Steve Arnett (Town of Ladysmith); Ron Kerr (City of Campbell River) and Tom Duncan (City of Duncan)

Barry Avis, who represents the Town of Qualicum Beach, was elected as board chair, while Brenda Leigh of the Strathcona Regional District is vice-chair.

The Vancouver Island Regional Library board, which is comprised of elected representatives from 28 member municipalities and 10 regional districts, administers a budget of more than \$20 million.

Find this article at:

<http://www.sooke.newsmirror.com/news/412452723.html>

Library books offer great pick up lines

Posted Feb 3, 2017 at 11:00 AM



— image credit:

In the days leading up to Valentine's Day, the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Sooke is offering book lovers something new: specially presented romance novels and love stories that do their best to "pick up" people.

"Customers can expect to be courted as these mysterious books compete for their library cards. There may even be chocolate," said branch manager Adrienne Wass.

Each book features a description that is meant to attract and intrigue – without ever revealing the author or title:

- “Like its hero, this book is as rugged as the Rocky Mountains. If hikes, slow dances and sizzling kisses don’t keep her there, he will unleash something she cannot resist, his devastating smile. Look out!”
- “Hi! I feature a free-spirited girl, a workaholic, responsible man, a whacky road trip and a lot of wine. If this whets your palate, you should check me out.”
- “I am a book that has seen a lot of loving. I may be a well-read romance novel but that just means people have checked me out and loved me. I have a stubborn heroine and a handsome police chief ... If you think I am the right kind of trouble, check me out.”

“If customers want to know what’s inside, they need to borrow that special item. They may find it hard to choose from the large display of attractive, single titles that are all promising readers passion and adventure. Whatever book they ultimately select, however, they can rest assured that it’s the start of a beautiful relationship,” Wass said.

For more information, please call 250-642-3022 or email sooke@virl.bc.ca.

The library is located at 2065 Anna Marie Rd.

Oops, we did it again: The District plays whack-a-mole with the Sooke Library

[February 7, 2017](#) Sooke Pocket News



–Britt Santowski, *SPN*

Despite borrowing \$1.42 million to purchase 5.2 acres along Wadams Way for a new library in early 2016, Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan recently said that SEAPARC was being considered as the new location for the Sooke Library.

The District of Sooke appears to have abruptly abandoned building a new library in the downtown core (Wadams Way). On February 3, the District posted a letter the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL), explaining the change of heart.

This letter, dated on January 27 and signed by Sullivan (see bottom of article), states that while Sooke would like to have a facility at the recently purchased 5.26 acres on Wadams Way, the District would not be able to “subsidize” the costs of clearing and readying it for construction.

“Should the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board wish to pursue a library facility on Lot A,” stated the letter, “the land is available in its current state.”

David Carson, Communication Manager at VIRL, said that the project at Lot A “became too cost prohibitive” for the Library to consider after the costs of clearing and pre-development came to light.

Carson also told *SPN* that the 2015 *Expression of Interest* VIRL submitted to the District did specify “shovel-ready land.”

Shortly after penning the letter to VIRL, on February 1, 2017, Sullivan announced to members of the Sooke Rotary that the library could move to SEAPARC.

Carson confirmed that VIRL was still in discussion with the District, and SEAPARC was being considered as an alternative location. Emphasizing they are still in the early stages, VIRL is envisioning a separate stand-alone facility next to the recreation centre.

Background of the Lot A land purchase for the new library

In March of 2015, the District of Sooke purchased Lot A, 2125 Anna Marie Rd. for \$1,420,000 specifically to house the new library (1). Minutes from a February 22, 2016 in-camera (closed doors) council meeting show that Council authorized the Mayor (Kerrie Reay was acting mayor at the time, and also sat as a Library Trustee) and the CAO (Sullivan) to sign the offer to purchase.

The funds were secured through a short term (five-year) loan from the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA (2)) at a Special March 21, 2016 Council meeting; repayment would come from surplus funds until 2020 (3). The then-acting mayor presiding over this meeting was Rick Kasper. Elected mayor Maja Tait was not scheduled to return until April 1, 2016.

Announcements were issued in May, 2016, by both the [District](#) and [VIRL](#).

Visions of space danced in their heads

The need for a new library facility exists. According to the above release from VIRL, the Sooke Library currently is 3,900 square feet. It was recommended that the facilities, which serves a population of about 17,000, be at least 10,000 – 12,000 square feet.

When the purchase and jointly driven relocation of the Library was first announce, Councillor and Library Trustee Kerrie Reay said “the District of Sooke and the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) can now take the next steps toward building a new library for Sooke.”

Reay had great visions for this space at the time of purchase.

“I see this as a great fit for a new library, and the learning and community gathering opportunities that come with it,” the release quoted Reay as saying. “I estimate that about 80% of the property will be available for other uses. There are many great things we can do with the remainder of this property, and this land acquisition will be held for future partnerships,”

Objections to the purchase

There have been some in the community who were concerned about the apparent lack of due diligence prior to the purchase.

Gail Hall spoke at the March 21 [special meeting](#) when the loan was approved, indicating that she wanted this to be presented as a bylaw. Bylaws have to go through several readings, and are open to scrutiny by the public.

In a letter to SPN, Ellen Lewers, president of the Sooke Fall Fair and owner and operator of Mrs. Lewers Farm, wrote, “Council also voted to purchase a swamp land property of over five acres, with a riparian area on it ... without an engineering report, costs of preparing the site for building (ie blasted rock and fill), how deep footings would need to be etc.

The land is just a part of the cost, but developing is not feasible. That is why other prominent developers side-stepped that property.”

At an October 20, 2016 meeting, half a year after the land was purchased, the [minutes](#) of the Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee hesitated to provide advice on the property.

“It was noted that it is impossible to give solid advice on the Wadams Way property until an engineering/geologic study of the acreage is completed,” read the minutes. “Is it a swamp requiring substantial fill? Might underground parking be possible there?”

Now what?

SPN has tried to find out what will now happen to the property, which taxpayers will be paying for over the next four (remaining) years (3). No one from the District has returned our inquiry, which was sent by email to CAO Sullivan, Mayor Tait and Councillor Reay. At the time of this publication, we have received neither recognition of our inquiry or a reply.

Spending \$1.42 million on a property for a future library without proper pre-development assessments—for an agreement that specified “shovel-ready land”—may end up being an expensive oopsie.

Notes

1. According to the minutes from a [Special Meeting held on March 21, 2016](#), Council approved a short-term loan of \$1,420,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA). Repayment would come from surplus initially and then possibly from Casino or other types of sources. Gail Hall, Sooke resident and council watchdog, wanted to see this as a bylaw. Staff said that because it's a short term loan, a bylaw was not required.
2. According to the [MFA](#), the “MFA makes available short term loans (maximum 5 year terms) under section 175 of the Community Charter. These loans must be of a capital nature and cannot be transferred to debenture or long term debt. The council must pass a resolution authorizing the debt for the project and specifying the principal repayment terms. Part of the application for a loan under this section includes the MFA receiving Council reports discussing the project, a liability servicing limit certificate and a certificate of the finance officer certifying that they have read and understood this section of the Charter. This type of borrowing is not reviewed or approved by the Ministry. The debt servicing under this borrowing must be deducted from the municipality's liability servicing limit”
3. According to the [proposed revisions to the Financial Plan](#), the following funds would be drawn from surplus over the next five years:
 - o 2016: \$313,033
 - o 2017: \$303,866
 - o 2018: \$298,896
 - o 2019: \$293,926
 - o 2020: \$288,956

Second site mulled for new Sooke library

by Kevin Laird - Sooke News Mirror

Sooke posted Feb 8, 2017 at 2:00 PM



— image credit:

Construction of a new public library in Sooke will probably be delayed as the Vancouver Island Regional Library looks to another property on SEAPARC land, officials said Wednesday.

Early last year the District of Sooke and VIRL announced with [fanfare](#) a new library would be built along Wadams Way, after the district bought two hectares of undeveloped land for \$1.42 million.

Construction was anticipated to start this year and a fall 2018 opening planned.

The \$6-million library will be built by VIRL.

But the district and VIRL could [not agree on costs](#) to clear the land on Wadams Way.

The shaky conclusion forced VIRL's hand, and library officials began looking at other potential sites.

"It came down to cost," said David Carson, VIRL's divisional manager of communications.

"The land needed to be prepared, trees cleared, and when all those costs were factored in, it became too expensive for a public entity to commit to it, so we had to look at other options."

So far, VIRL has not entered into an agreement with SEAPARC for land. The SEAPARC property is owned in partnership with the District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area director Mike Hicks, who is also SEAPARC chair and a library trustee, said VIRL approached SEAPARC about possible land options.

The new library, first envisioned in 2008, will see the library on Anna Marie Road move and increase from 3,600 square feet to 10,000. Only 20 per cent of the land will be used for the new library. The other 80 per cent would be available for other uses, such as an art gallery or community centre.

"The SEAPARC commission has agreed that if the library chooses SEAPARC we would be delighted to have them," Hicks said.

"We're not pursuing them. It's [VIRL's] decision on where they want to put the library."

Mayor Maja Tait believes the Wadams Way property is ideal due to the location in the centre of Sooke.

But Hicks and Carson point out SEAPARC is well situated, too. It is within walking distance of schools, Sunriver Estates, the T'Sou-ke Nation and transit routes. The new library would be built at the front of SEAPARC Leisure Complex at 2168 Phillips Rd.

And although there's no formal agreement in place with SEAPARC, Carson said, several site visits have taken place and design work has begun.

"We are committed to getting the library completed as soon as possible," he said.

New Library at SEAPARC under serious consideration

[February 10, 2017](#) Sooke Pocket News

According to the Chair of the Sooke and Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission (SEAPARC), staff have been directed to explore the possibility of building a new library facility at the Phillips road location.

"The CRD Board has supported a SEAPARC request to have staff work with the VIRL Board to investigate the possibility of building the library facility at SEAPARC," said Mike Hicks in a phone call to SPN.

Mike Hicks is a board member with the Vancouver Island Regional Library board, a CRD Director for Juan de Fuca, and the Chair of SEAPARC.

If Lot A (the purchased property on Wadams Way, behind Western Foods) is not a feasible option, Hicks would rather see a facility built at SEAPARC than not at all.

The SEAPARC facility, while not perfect, has many things going for it. It's fully paid for, 24-hour security is already available, and it's familiar (families, hockey, Fine Arts Festival, Rotary Auction, etc). It is in close proximity to EMCS (Sooke's high school), the bike park, the soccer fields, T'Sou-ke Nation, and Sunriver; and, it is on the local BC Transit bus route. In addition, the fitness facility is looking at expanding their building and services.

Physically, the new library could be built at the front, on the grassy section facing the Sooke Region Museum. This wouldn't impact existing parking.

The land at SEAPARC is already fully owned by the District and Juan de Fuca.

Hicks noted that the Vancouver Island Region Library board currently has six million dollars set aside for the construction of a library facility in Sooke. He said Councillor Kerry Reay, who is on the Library Board executive, has worked very hard on the Library Board to make a new library happen in Sooke.

"It shouldn't cost the taxpayer a cent," Hicks said.

Hicks sees great potential for Sooke. There's the recent acquisition of the golf course on Throup, the upcoming possibly installation of turf on the soccer fields at Sooke and River Road, and now, possibly, a greatly expanded Library.

What Hicks doesn't want is for the new library not to be built at all.

The property ("Lot A") on Wadams Way was purchased by the District of Sooke in February, 2016, with the intention of constructing a new library there, in the Sooke town core. The CAO announced on February 1, 2017 to Sooke Rotary that a new possibility of building a new library at SEAPARC was being considered.

The assessed property value for Lot A on Wadams way was \$667,000 in 2015, \$1,040,000 in 2016, and \$1,206,000 in 2017. The increase, according to BC Assessment, was a result of the proposed modified land usage (the proposed library).

On April 27, 2010, Lot A was purchased for \$1,200,000; on February 29, 2016, the District of Sooke paid \$1,420,000.

SOOKE NEWS MIRROR



LETTER: The ball is now in library's court

By Sooke News Mirror

Published: **February 15, 2017 10:00 AM**

Updated: **February 15, 2017 10:2610 AM**

Re: Second site mulled for new Sooke library (*Online*, Feb. 9)

Sooke taxpayers pay almost \$600,000 a year for library service and Juan de Fuca region residents also pay their fair share of the Vancouver Island Regional Library's \$35.6-million budget.

VIRL has been saying that a new library for Sooke has been a priority going back as far as 2006.

The District of Sooke worked with VIRL on the land issue because VIRL could not find something suitable. Their request for expression of interest was offered to the private sector to come back with options for a new library that VIRL could purchase.

As nothing that met their needs came forward from the private sector, and the District of Sooke had the opportunity to purchase the five-acre parcel of land in the town core, council offered a portion of the site to VIRL.

If VIRL was prepared to pay the private sector for a construction-ready site, then I believe in all fairness they should treat Sooke taxpayers the same way.

The district supported VIRL's \$6 million borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority to build the Sooke library. VIRL has stated that the 10,000-square-foot library will cost \$3.5 to \$4.5 million to build including the cost of furniture, equipment and books. That leaves \$1.5 million for other costs that they have available.

Council has made it clear it would prefer the new library be built within the town centre area. The ball is in their court. It's VIRL's responsibility and they have the money.

My fear is that Sooke may now get shortchanged and some of that \$6 million will be spent elsewhere.

On the bright side, Sooke taxpayers own a prime five-acre parcel in the town core for future use and development. This property was earmarked for development in the Sooke Town Centre Plan done in 2010 and there's much potential for the vision of council, the private sector and the community.

Rick Kasper

Councillor

District of Sooke

Find this article at:

<http://www.sooke.newsmirror.com/opinion/413855583.html>

Dog-eared reading program helps struggling kids

by Kevin Laird - Sooke News Mirror

Sooke posted Feb 20, 2017 at 8:00 AM



Josée Bélanger with Pacha during the Paws and Tales program at the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Sooke. The program helps students practice their reading skills.

— *image credit: Kevin Laird/Sooke News Mirror*

Every Wednesday afternoon, big smiles fill the room at the Vancouver Island Regional Library on Anna Marie Road whenever Pacha, a therapy dog, comes to visit.

It's time for children to read with Pacha.

The large Australian labradoodle is typical of his breed: friendly, energetic and good with families and children.

Pacha's owner and handler is Josée Bélanger, a registered nurse. Together, they volunteer with the Pacific Animal Therapy Society, Sooke Rotary Club and the library with the Paws and Tales program.

Pacha's day begins with washing, grooming and getting ready for the library visit. Bélanger knows the routine well, having volunteered with Pacha and another dog at the library and other locations in Greater Victoria for the last two years.

When Pacha and Bélanger enter, library staff and children welcome them, pausing with a pat and a little chit chat.

The pair go to a tiny room at the back of the library where the reading begins.

Paws and Tales is a program that uses therapy dogs to encourage reluctant readers. When a calm dog is lying beside the child who is reading, then the child is reading to a non-judgmental, warm and accepting friend, Bélanger explains.

Back in the classroom, children will snuggle up to Pacha on a blanket with book in hand and read aloud. Pacha will listen attentively; sometimes roll over to get his belly scratched or his ears patted.

"He helps motivate the children to read – and they just fall in love with him," Bélanger says.

Sooke library manager Adrienne Wass says the Paws and Tales program is another opportunity to promote reading. Some kids struggle with literacy, others face issues with reading aloud.

The Paws and Tales took a break last year when the program's lead dog, Timba, died of congestive heart failure. Pacha was already part of the program as a "junior partner," as Bélanger likes to point out, and is now ready to take on the role full-time.

The library welcomed back the pair with the Sooke Rotary Club agreeing to manage the program and schedule appointments.

Sessions for the Paws and Tales literacy program are by appointment only, please email Jean Lister at jeanlisteris@gmail.com.

Lot A land could be worth millions: Sooke contractor

by Kevin Laird - Sooke News Mirror

Sooke posted Feb 20, 2017 at 8:00 AM

The District of Sooke's purchase of five acres of undeveloped land along Wadams Way is a "great deal" and could see millions of dollars in return once the property is cleared and serviced, says a former councillor.

In January 2016, the district bought the land for \$1.42-million, with plans to construct a library and other community amenities.

"If I have to take an educated guess, I would say the property could sell one-acre parcels for between \$1 million and \$1.5 million and eventually it could be even more than that," said Haldane, a local contractor who served on council for six years.

There's good reason for his optimism.

With the Sooke region hitting a 15,000 population, small franchises, like Golf Town and Reitmans, are looking more favourable at the area.

"It's why the district property is going to be worth a small fortune, and the district can rezone it to anything it wants," he said.

The Wadams Way property, also known as Lot A, came under scrutiny recently when the Vancouver Island Regional Library decided to look elsewhere for its new \$6-million library in Sooke.

The district and VIRL could not agree on costs to clear the land on Lot A, estimated to cost between, \$600,000 to \$800,000.

Haldane, whose company was once contracted to clean up the property, said Lot A is on solid footing with clay base soil, which indicates hardpan and perfect for building. He added drainage rock would be needed.

District council looked at the property going back to 2013, with the eye to add more land to its inventory and to create community assets such as a second community centre, affordable housing, urgent care centre, or park.

"This property is a complete blank slate and near the town centre," said Mayor Maja Tait. "I don't think we'd ever sell it. There's a growing need – and demand – for more facilities as we grow."

One of the problems in Sooke is the lack of available property for commercial development. The library did attempt to find property in the town core but didn't have success.

Other challenges in the town core are topography, narrow lots, access and zoning.

With the likelihood the library will be built at SEAPARC (a decision by the library board is expected next month), council will probably be setting their goals for the property in the coming months.

"Everybody on council has their vision for the property," Tait said. "We need to find some common ground and move forward."

Nanaimo News Bulletin

 PRINT THIS

New Nanaimo library renovation costs double



By Nanaimo News Bulletin

Published: **February 23, 2017 01:00 PM**

Updated: **February 23, 2017 04:134 PM**

Costs have nearly doubled to [relocate](#) Vancouver Island Regional Library's Wellington branch in Nanaimo to nearby Country Club Centre.

Plans for the move were announced last year with a budget of \$375,000. Since renovations at the central Nanaimo shopping mall have started, costs have increased to about \$680,000.

"That increase just stems from the demand on the Nanaimo construction market by construction service and really, the amount of time that passed between the original and revised budget estimates," said David Carson, Vancouver Island Regional Library spokesman.

All the money is coming out of facilities reserves and no borrowing is required, Carson said.

The size of the new location – about 4,700 square feet – is similar to that of the current Barons Road address, but Carson said patrons' experiences will be enhanced at the new site.

"It's about improving on the space, so we're providing improved public spaces; nice new areas where people can sit down for quiet reading and to study and some nice lounge seating in the area," said Carson. "We're also going to provide space for small group work and collaboration, as well as more space for children's programming."

There will be changes to the library collection that will be tailored to the Wellington community, said Carson. Book numbers are expected to remain constant, but the branch will work on providing more of a community focus collection with magazines, DVDs and CDs.

"There's going to be Wi-Fi. New public computers, which is going to be great because as computers age, it really affects the user's experience. We're also going to be installing computers in our children's area, that we've installed at many of our branches, and they're basically designed specifically for kids to help them improve their literacy skills of both number and letter literacy through various games," said Carson.

The current location will close on March 11 and the Country Club Centre location is expected to open sometime in May.

For updates on construction, please go to www.virl.bc.ca.

Find this article at:

<http://www.nanaimobulletin.com/news/414651404.html>

Nanaimo News Bulletin

 **PRINT THIS**

Nanaimo hockey players help students engage with reading



By Nanaimo News Bulletin

Published: **February 24, 2017 11:00 AM**

Updated: **February 24, 2017 11:4211 AM**

Nanaimo librarian Jason Kuffler's Score with Reading event combined two of his greatest passions: hockey and engaging reluctant young readers.

And who better than hometown hockey heroes Nanaimo Clippers to help motivate and inspire kids to read?

"The players really are a perfect match for a program like this," Kuffler said. "The kids hang on their every word."

Since it began in 2012, Score with Reading has grown through new partnerships and a collective commitment to help kids discover their love of reading. This year's partners included the Nanaimo Lions Club, School District 68, which offered a mentorship component, the Clippers and the B.C. Hockey League.

Regular Agenda - March 13, 2017 - Supplemental Page 82

"The BCHL's motto is Smart Hockey and the league boasts the highest percentage of players who go on to scholarships in Canada and the U.S.," Kuffler said. "Few of them make it to the NHL, so they really understand the value of education and literacy."

Score with Reading has been the BCHL's league-wide, education-based initiative for the last two years with teams and libraries offering the program throughout B.C. and Wenatchee, Wash.

In 2016, the library partnered with Nanaimo school district to offer a mentorship program that aimed to give kids who would benefit from more interaction with the players three opportunities to do so. In addition to the Score with Reading event on Feb. 11, kids also participated in a meet-and-greet with the players in December and a Skate with the Clippers day in January.

At the February event, Clippers' players read to the kids and adults inside the library, and then everybody spilled out into Diana Krall Plaza for a game of street hockey. Nanaimo Mayor Bill McKay dropped the ball for the opening face-off between the library's mascot, Tales the Whale, and Clippers' captain Spencer Hewson.

In the future, Kuffler hopes to expand the program Canada-wide and apply it to other sports. He has had interest from rugby, football and soccer teams already.

"The program is so easy to deliver and can be tailored to any sport," he says. "You can see the impact that these players have on the kids immediately."

Find this article at:

<http://www.nanaimobulletin.com/community/414732734.html>

West Coast Lifestyle

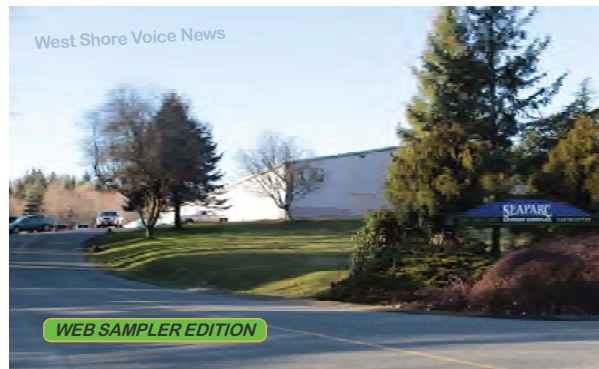
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Looking at the SEAPARC property for the new Sooke Library

Will they or won't they?

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Land adjacent to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex on Phillips Road in Sooke used to be a septic field. An architect has told the Vancouver Island Regional Library board that although it's less than one acre in size, that land area could accommodate a new Sooke Library so long as parking could be shared with SEAPARC.

● A new library for Sooke is still a priority of the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board. And with the lease at the current Sooke Library location on Anna Marie Road coming up to expiry in December 2018, it's time to keep looking for a location.

A year ago -- on February 29, 2016 to be exact -- the District of Sooke and VIRL co-announced the District of Sooke's purchase of 5 acres of land on Wadams Way. It was being earmarked for the library as well as other future purposes.

The proposed 10,000 sq ft new Sooke Library requires at least one acre of land. VIRL's business model is that the municipality or town that gets a new library at no cost should provide land at no cost to VIRL.

Some land next to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex (owned by the Capital Regional District) was recently reviewed by VIRL with an architect. It was determined that the area -- which is less than 1 one acre -- could still accommodate a new library for a community the size of Sooke. That's because parking would be available in the SEAPARC lot.

As to whether a firm arrangement for parking in the SEAPARC lot would be possible: "Our discussions with VIRL have included parking in our existing parking lot. It won't be a problem," says Mike Hicks, SEAPARC Chair.

Mayor Maja Tait spoke with a bit of exasperation at Council on February 14 over the pushback on social media about the SEAPARC location being too far from Sooke town centre. Tait sees the December 2018 deadline looming.

David Carson, VIRL Divisional Manager of Communications, told West Shore Voice News on February 24 that if a new Sooke library isn't built by December 2018 that the fall-back option is to rent some retail space for the short term. Not only would that be costly, Sooke rarely if ever has any retail space big enough to accommodate a library.

"Libraries are a community hub," says Carson. He says they take a holistic approach to welcoming the broadest range of the community including seniors and youth.

The District of Sooke's rep to the VIRL board is Kerrie Reay; this year she sits on their executive committee. Reay did not reply this week to a request for comment about the furtherance of the SEAPARC land possibility.

This week there has been criticism around town and on social media that the 5-acre purchase on Wadams Way was probably ill-founded if the library doesn't end up there. However, land-banking of valuable town centre property is not in any way a waste of funds.

There are many possible uses for the Wadams Way land which is level and has roadway access. Not the least of which could be the long-awaited seniors/youth centre or even some day a much-needed health clinic or small hospital (population needs to be 20,000+ to qualify for a hospital). And the District of Sooke itself could probably do with a relocation of their municipal hall to something within the heart of town centre. As well, last year there was talk at the Sooke Program of the Arts committee about the possibility of a Town Square, with a clock tower to boot (shades of *Back to the Future*!).

Failing any municipal construction on the Wadams Way property, resale of the land at future commercial land prices could be lucrative. **WSV**

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Hwy 14/West Coast Road: maintenance Feb 27-Mar 10

● There will be some Highway 14 (West Coast Road) maintenance going on in the Jordan River area, February 27 to March 10 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm). Expect some minor delays as there will be single-lane alternating traffic. Use caution around the construction site, says Mainroad South Island. **WSV**

Daily news on Facebook: [WestShoreSookeVoiceNews](https://www.facebook.com/WestShoreSookeVoiceNews)

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Two new beds at Ayre Manor for palliative care

West Shore Voice News | first published Jan 27, 2017

● The Ayre Manor seniors care residence in Sooke is getting two new rooms to be used by Sooke Hospice for palliative care. The new spaces are being made possible with \$50,000 in capital funding from the BC Government.

The announcement for these two rooms and others on Vancouver Island came in the last week of January from the BC Ministry of Health (along with Island Health and the BC Centre for Palliative Care) after months of planning.

"We will have one room available for March 31," said Sandy Pedneault, Chair, Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society (SECHS) this week. SECHS owns and operates Ayre Manor.

"We are actually constructing a new room that takes some room away from one of the lounges in Complex Care. In order to have the hospice beds we have given up two unfunded private pay Complex Care beds."

"We will be receiving funding for LPN positions to service the hospice rooms, and will round out our staff of one RN 24/7 and Care Aids for the Complex Care and hospice beds," said Pedneault.

Ayre Manor is at full capacity with 75 residents living on the property. About 50 to 55 staff are on payroll including admin, RNs, LPNs, care aids, housekeepers and kitchen staff. More LPNs will soon bring the staff total to 61.

"Sooke Hospice does a great job in caring for the community's families going through the loss of a loved one, in supplying volunteers, special beds, and other equipment in that most patients



Two new rooms for use by Sooke Hospice will be ready in the Complex Care building at Ayre Manor by March 31.

choose to remain at home in Sooke near family and friends," says Pedneault. "We will still receive funding for empty beds but (if the beds are empty) we will lose the per diem which is approximately \$238 per day per bed (same as for the Complex Care beds)."

But having the beds in Sooke will mean that hospice patients won't have to relocate to hospice care in Victoria. Proximity within Sooke will make it easier for spouses, family and friends to be close to the patient who is in palliative care, explains Sooke Hospice Society president Pat Brooks. "We are very pleased to be getting two hospice beds finally," said Brooks. **WSV**

Volunteer firefighters in BC get tax credit starting 2017

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount observes firefighter gear at Sooke Fire Hall #1.

● Volunteer firefighters and search-and-rescue volunteers in BC are now eligible for a provincial tax credit.

An announced on February 11, 2017 -- and given high profile in the BC Budget Speech on February 22 -- a new non-refundable volunteer firefighter and search-and-rescue volunteer tax credit has been introduced.

It's available to British Columbians who provide at least 200 hours of volunteer service to either a volunteer fire department, an eligible search and rescue organization, or a combination of both.

The credit amount is \$3,000, providing a tax benefit of up to \$151.80 per eligible taxpayer. The tax credit is available for the 2017 and subsequent taxation years.

"This was a categorical announcement that is trying to differentiate full time Fire Departments to Volunteer," said Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount this week.

"My advice to all volunteer firefighters is to consult with a tax advisor to ensure that either the choice of the \$3,000 credit or \$1,000 deductions makes best sense, since most volunteers receive some small honorarium," says Mount. He adds: "We as a District can support the documentation for proof of hours served."

When Finance Minister Michael de Jong spoke of the \$3,000 tax credit in his BC Budget Speech on Wednesday, he said it was one way "to acknowledge and give back" to firefighters and search-and-rescue volunteers.

Locally, BC Liberal candidate Cathy Noel (Langford-Juan de Fuca) says: "I was proud to vote for this policy initiative at our convention last fall."

For a plain-language overview of Budget 2017, see: http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2017/highlights/Balanced_Budget_2017_Highlights.pdf

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SOOKE NEWS MIRROR



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■ OUR VIEW

Library location not about money

The Vancouver Island Regional Library board's efforts to move away from the Wadams Way property to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex shouldn't just be about the dollars. It should focus on community development and the best use of the new \$6-million library branch in Sooke.

More than a year ago, the District of Sooke and library officials announced with great fanfare the municipality bought two hectares of land along Wadams Way. The property, we were told, would house a new 10,000 square foot library and other municipal amenities. Officials were giddy over the prospects.

Fast forward to last month when it was revealed the SEAPARC board and library officials were discussing moving the project to Phillips Road.

The reason: the district and library board couldn't agree on the price to clear the Wadams Way land – a price tag of about \$600,000.

The new library branch is looked at by district council as one of the focal points to further creating a city centre, especially along the Wadams Way corridor.

Now with the library board hedging its bets, it puts a damper on that vision. We believe the property was a good buy and many uses are appropriate.

It's not up to the library trustees to foster the vision of council, but it does have a responsibility to find the best location for a new library.

SEAPARC isn't that place.

For a library, it is out of the way and wouldn't further enhance the library's – and possible the leisure centre's – use. There's several problems with the location, including parking and further expansion of the recreation facility.

Wadams Way is the only location.

It has many attributes, besides the central location. It will be linked to an area that's growing and will continue to grow. The mayor and council have mulled the property for years and along with the library, you might see a community centre, likely aimed at youth, affordable housing, even a medical facility.

On March 18, the library board will meet in Nanaimo to decide the location of the new library in Sooke. We hope there's little debate on the location and that common sense prevails for the Wadams Way location. We certainly hope our elected officials on the board, including Coun. Kerrie Reay and CRD director Mike Hicks, stand up for Sooke.

Complaint resolution

The Sooke News Mirror is a member of the National Newsmedia Council, which is an independent organization established to deal with acceptable journalistic practices and ethical behaviour. If you have concerns about editorial content, please contact editor Kevin Laird at 250-642-5752 or email editor@sookenewsmirror.com. If you are not satisfied with the response and wish to file a formal complaint, visit the website at mediacouncil.ca or call-free 1-877-437-1163.



Readers' letters / email: editor@sookenewsmirror.com

Wandering dog back home thanks to couple

Heartfelt thanks to the couple from Sooke in a silver-grey SUV who picked up our wandering dog and delivered him to our friend Kevin to return him home.

We want to thank this anonymous couple for their generosity and for them to contact us at 250-646-2791 for a more personal expression of thanks.

Gerard LeBlanc
Sooke

Letter-writer clarifies Kemp Lake 'facts'

I am on the Kemp Lake waterworks system and I am not concerned about improvements to the public access at Milligan Road.

People seem worried improvements will increase the number of people swimming and fishing. One writer says he has seen "boil water" notices three times in the last year. In fact, there have been two boil water advisories in the last seven months.

There have been three boil water advisories in the over 30 years we have been on the system. The other one had to do with contaminants entering the lines somewhere away from the lake.

Another writer says the lake has been identified by the CRD as an unreliable water source. In fact, the Island Health Authority manages drinking water, not the CRD. Because of the number of people served by the Kemp Lake

system, regulations require the water treatment be upgraded.

Although any such drinking water source is at risk, there was no increase in risk at the time the new treatment was mandated. The CRD has agreed that Kemp Lake users can buy water from the CRD system. We are waiting to hear if we get a federal grant before going to a referendum regarding funding the hook-up to the CRD system.

The new houses at the bottom of Chubb Road would not have been allowed in the CRD watershed. I expect the residents and their guests use the lake wisely while enjoying private access to fish and swim from their properties. Small boats can be launched at Chubb Road but the bottom at this site is not suitable for swimming. And finally, the lake is stocked by fisheries so it is fair that anyone can fish.

Heather Phillips
Sooke

Canadians can count their blessings

What Canada means to me. I am grateful to live in Canada and can say so knowing we have freedom of speech.

We live in safety and security. Many lives were given to keep it so.

We must pass this on to our children of what was given for all generations to come.

When we count our blessings there is no room for anything else.

Martha Moore
Sooke

■ FLETCHER ONLINE

The legislature's fake news and blood system

The B.C. legislature attracts its share of fake news events, especially now during a pre-election sitting, says Black Press columnist Tom Fletcher.

A few of those staged protests occurred last week.

The Wilderness Committee hauled a giant inflatable plastic grizzly bear to the front steps and pumped it up to attract gullible TV coverage of their petition demanding an endangered species law.

"No, B.C. grizzlies aren't endangered. That's an alternative fact. Their news release talked mostly about spotted owls, whose tiny northern fringe population extending into B.C. has been a fundraising favourite of professional tree-huggers for decades," writes Fletcher. For the full column, please go online to sookenewsmirror.com

Letters policy

Letters should not exceed 300 words in length. All letters must include a full name, community of residence and a phone number, although the number will not be published. Email submissions to editor@sookenewsmirror.com



Correspondence

Heather Mink Zuvich

From: Sabrina Frazier [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 1:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Heather Mink Zuvich
Subject: Re: VIRL business

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello [REDACTED],
I am forwarding your email onto our staff. I will do my best to find a solution to this issue. I do agree that urban solutions are not necessarily a good fit for rural areas.
Sincerely
Sabrina Frazier
VIRL Board Member

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2017, at 10:56 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Sabrina,
I am writing to you about a service of downloadable audio CD's, movies through the hoopla application that has come to a halt for QC residents. For at least three weeks I received a message that I had exceeded the daily library limit which is different from the monthly six item limit. I uninstalled and reinstalled the hoopla application, to no avail. I phoned our branch after some weeks and spoke to [REDACTED]. She was aware of these difficulties and confirmed that the people within the system were aware as well. The way she explained it was that there are a certain amount of titles to download per library branch and our branch clients have exceeded the limit set. For small communities, having a service like hoopla is very desirable. In the bigger centres, downloads will be instant, I am sure. If there is anything you can do to help bring about a solution to this, that would be great. I commend our staff here for their service.
[REDACTED]



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com



Administration
Box 3333 | 6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

January 20, 2017

██████████
Original sent via email: ██████████

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your email about our Hoopla service. We are aware of on-going difficulties for customers on this platform. I assure you that they are not limited to Haida Gwaii, and that we are actively seeking solutions to the problem.

Hoopla is a very expensive service for VIRL to provide. In order to meet our budgetary restrictions we are required to set maximum lending amounts in two ways. VIRL customers all have a six item borrowing limit on Hoopla each month – as you know. We also have a monthly spending limit, which creates a daily maximum check out limit for the system. This limit is applied across all of VIRL, and is not branch specific (despite the previous information you were given). Customers are able to check out titles on Hoopla each day until the VIRL maximum limit is reached. The daily maximum is automatically reset at 5:00 PM. If you are experiencing repeated difficulties accessing Hoopla content, I recommend you try shortly after 5:00 PM if you can.

I hope you are also aware of our large and growing collection of [audiobook titles on other platforms](#), especially OverDrive. Maybe some of these can serve your needs when you are unable to access Hoopla. We also have other [streaming video](#) platforms you may wish to try.

I hope this has been of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,

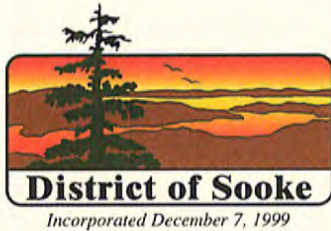
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Bonanno".

Rosemary Bonanno, BA MLS
Executive Director

CC: Sabrina Frazier, VIRL Trustee (Queen Charlotte City)
VIRL Board of Trustees
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services & Planning
Geoffrey Allen, Divisional Manager, Innovative Technologies and Collections

Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo North Nanaimo Wellington Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen Charlotte Sandspit Sayward Sidney/North Saanich Sointula Sooke South Cowichan Tahsis Tofino Ucluelet Union Bay Woss



2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, British Columbia, Canada V9Z 1J2

Phone: 250-642-1634 • Fax: 250-642-0541 • Email: info@sooke.ca • Website: www.sooke.ca

File No. 0360-20

January 27, 2017

Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director
Vancouver Island Regional Library
PO Box 3333
Nanaimo, BC V9Z 5N3
VIA EMAIL: rbonanno@virl.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Bonanno:

RE: Vancouver Island Regional Library facility in the District of Sooke

The District of Sooke and Vancouver Island Regional Library Board have had ongoing discussions regarding a new library facility for the Sooke region for several years. Throughout this process, the District of Sooke has remained very supportive of this much-needed investment in our community.

In early 2016, the municipality purchased a centrally located, large, and accessible piece of land (known as "Lot A") with the intention of working with the Vancouver Island Regional Library board to establish a community library facility in this location.

The District of Sooke believes that Lot A is the ideal location for a new library facility and has made the land available to the Vancouver Island Regional Library board for this purpose. Council has determined however, that the District of Sooke is not in a position to further subsidize the development of a library facility by incurring costs to clear Lot A and ready it for building construction. Should the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board wish to pursue a library facility on Lot A, the land is available in its current state.

The construction of a new community library facility has been a goal shared by the District of Sooke and the Vancouver Island Regional Library board for many years. While we do believe that Lot A is the ideal location, we recognize other options are available. Regardless of the location that the Vancouver Island Regional Library board chooses for the new Sooke library, the District of Sooke will remain a committed partner.

Sincerely,

Teresa Sullivan
Chief Administrative Officer

Mike Hicks
Regional Director
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
#3 – 7450 Butler Road
Sooke, BC V9Z 1N1
250 216 5802
directorjdf@crd.bc.ca

Feb. 2, 2017

Rosemary Bonanno
Executive Director
Vancouver Island Regional Library

Dear Ms. Bonanno,

I wish to clarify our position regarding the siting of VIRL's library on SEAPARC land. Our SEAPARC Commission and our Capital Regional District Board publically stated last week:

The CRD Board has supported a Seaparc Commission request to have staff work with the Vancouver Island Library Board to investigate the possibility of siting the Library Facility at Seaparc.

We have agreed that our SEAPARC manager Steve Knoke is our contact person to VIRL. He will have the full CRD team of professionals at his disposal to facilitate the negotiations on our behalf.

If VIRL choses our location for their library, our SEAPARC commission and staff will do everything is our power to make our partnership a huge success.

Sincerely,



Mike Hicks
Chair SEAPARC



Administration
Box 3333 | 6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

February 6, 2017

The Honourable Mike Bernier, MLA
Minister of Education
Room 134, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Original sent via email: mike.bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca

**Re: Support for Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government
Services Report on the Budget 2017 Consultations**

Dear Minister Bernier:

In November, we brought to your attention the Ministry of Education's plan *Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities: A vision for public library service in British Columbia*. (<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/community-partnerships/libraries/libraries-strategic-plan.pdf>), and the recommendations from the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' (the "Committee") Report on the Budget 2017 Consultations: (https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/40th-parliament/5th-session/fgs/Reports/FGS-2016-11-15-Report_BudgetConsultation.pdf) as they relate to public libraries.

I am now writing to advise you that the Select Standing Committee's Report on the Budget 2017 Consultations will be tabled in the House in February 2017 and to request your support for the Committee's specific recommendation:

82. Provide inflation-adjusted funding increases to public libraries to enable them to sustain basic levels of service and consider additional increases to implement new innovations in service delivery ("indexation of the grant").

While we appreciate that Provincial grant allocations to public libraries have been *stable* since 2010, there has been no *increase* in Provincial funding to public libraries since 2005. As a result, public libraries have been absorbing a year-over-year decrease to real revenue that cumulatively amounts to 19%, resulting in economic vulnerability (<http://inflationcalculator.ca/british-columbia/>).

Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo North Nanaimo Wellington Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen Charlotte Sandspit Sayward Sidney/North Saanich Sointula Sooke South Cowichan Tahsis Tofino Ucluelet Union Bay Woss

We respectfully request, now that Provincial total revenues are healthy, for an annual inflationary adjustment be made for public libraries and that annual increases be indexed in future. At a minimum, a single year inflationary increase of 2% over 2016 to the current allocation of 14M is a modest \$280,000.

Provincial funding for libraries is an indispensable element in maintaining equitable access to information (whether print, electronic or online) for all ages, income and education levels, and is particularly important for smaller communities.

With 71 public libraries delivering services through 247 locations, public libraries are strategic assets in B.C. communities with existing physical and digital infrastructure and well-established community partnerships.

Investment in public libraries supports the economic vitality, social well-being and cultural development of our Province. Government's vision is that our public libraries provide British Columbians with access to the information and tools they need to learn, work, create and thrive in today's changing world.

The Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors and the British Columbia Library Trustees Association are working to secure broad support from MLAs across the Province for the inflationary increase when the Report is tabled in February 2017. Please let us know whether you would be prepared to speak on our behalf at that time, or to join other MLAs in support of a motion.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Best regards,



Barry Avis
Board Chair, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Cc: VIRL Board of Trustees
Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL
Joel Adams, Director of Finance, VIRL
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services and Planning, VIRL
Lis Pedersen, Director of Human Resources, VIRL

Heather Mink Zuvich

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:57 PM
To: Board Communications
Subject: Location of new Sooke Library

TO: VIRL Board of Trustees

I'm writing to express my opposition to our new Sooke library being located at Seaparc. I've been a Sooke library user since we moved to Sooke (Whiffin Spit neighbourhood) in 2003 and am also a non-driver. As an editor and literary consultant, I'll readily state that the library is one of my favourite places in the Sooke core and I was looking forward to a larger library with more materials, services and amenities. Now I learn I may not be able to access it as a pedestrian, a huge disappointment. I imagine other library users in Sooke may feel the same way.

According to Google maps, Seaparc is a 20-minute walk, one way, from the current library, along a road not meant for pedestrians. There are buses, but making the trip on transit is costly for such a short trip (\$5.00 roundtrip) and would require some careful scheduling and an uphill walk with no sidewalks. For a casual trip to the library to drop off or pick up books, do research or have a pleasurable browse through the new titles, it's not very practical for those of us in the west end of town or the core.

I looked at each VIRL location on a map and concluded that Bella Coola, Bowser, Campbell River, Chemainus, Comox, Courtney, Duncan, Cumberland, Gabriola Island, Gold River, Hornby Island, Ladysmith, Masset, Nanaimo, Parkville, Qualicum, Port Clements, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Sandspit, Sayward, Sidney, Sointula, Mill Bay, Tahsis, Tofino, Union Bay and Ucluelet, indeed almost all, had their libraries in the town core. Why should Sooke be any different? We are a growing, active community filled with creative, intelligent people with varied interests. The new library could be a centrepiece for Sooke's downtown.

Many people who use the library's computer service for their Internet access may not have or drive cars. Seniors (such as those living in Ayre Manor and Harbourside Co-housing), people living in affordable housing (Hope Centre, Legion Housing Society), young families, children and teens may also be accessing the library on foot. And then there are people like me who simply do not drive. If, as a society, we have a vision of more walkable communities, "smart growth" and ending the tyranny of the motor vehicle, having a library in the centre of town is essential. A library is not just a place to get books, it's a gathering place—for meetings, literacy and children's reading programs, classes, clubs, computer use and training and info about community resources. And it's more than just a building, it's like a community centre, something the town core doesn't have. Looking for places for young people to hang out? A larger library with more computers would be perfect. Our current library is 3,900 square feet. The recommendation for a facility serving 17,000 people is at least 10,000–12,000 square feet. Right now the library is so small, I've been known to have to sit on the floor!

I respect and value the work our District council, the Vancouver Island Regional Library system and interested citizens have contributed so far in trying to secure a new library location for Sooke. Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]





Administration
Box 3333 | 6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

March 3, 2017

Original sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for outlining your preferences for a new library for the Sooke community. While I can understand your desire to have a centrally housed Sooke branch, finding a location in the downtown core that balances a number of factors and that aligns with our budget, is a very real challenge.

As of yet, no final decisions have been made, but as you may well have read in the local media, our lease at the current facility ends in December 2018. We would like to avoid entering into a retail lease agreement at that time and the only way to ensure this is to finalize a parcel of land for your new Sooke branch. Time is of the essence.

SEAPARC is under consideration because the land is shovel-ready, the space can accommodate the size of our proposed build, the existing infrastructure already attracts many people each day, the area is projected to develop significantly in the years ahead, and we can complete the project within the scope of our budget.

Our goal is to build a community hub that will serve Sooke's growing and diverse needs for years to come. When the Library Board makes a final decision on where to build, our decision will take into consideration all of the points listed above, and will strive to balance the numerous perspectives and preferences of Sooke customers.

Sincerely,

Barry Avis
Board Chair, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Cc: Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees
Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services and Planning, VIRL
Joel Adams, Director of Finance, VIRL
David Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications, VIRL

Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland
Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo North Nanaimo Wellington
Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen
Creston Esquimalt Nanaimo (North) Nanaimo (South) Sooke Stuart Cowichan (South) Cowichan (North) Ladysmith

Regular Agenda - March 13, 2017 - Supplemental Page 95

Heather Mink Zuvich

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:57 PM
To: Board Communications
Subject: Sooke Library Site

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello

I would like to add my voice to the many Sooke residents who oppose placing the new library at SeaParc. It is critical for the the library to be located in the downtown core of Sooke. It needs to be a walkable amenity for the elderly and the young..
I urge you to continue working with the municipality to find a location in the core that works...

Regards, [REDACTED]



Administration
Box 3333 | 6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

March 3, 2017

Original sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for outlining your preferences for a new library for the Sooke community. While I can understand your desire to have a centrally housed Sooke branch, finding a location in the downtown core that balances a number of factors and that aligns with our budget, is a very real challenge.

As of yet, no final decisions have been made, but as you may well have read in the local media, our lease at the current facility ends in December 2018. We would like to avoid entering into a retail lease agreement at that time and the only way to ensure this is to finalize a parcel of land for your new Sooke branch. Time is of the essence.

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Sincerely,

Barry Avis
Board Chair, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Cc: Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees
Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services and Planning, VIRL
Joel Adams, Director of Finance, VIRL
David Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications, VIRL

Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

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Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen
Creston Esquimalt Victoria (North) Victoria (South) Sooke Stuart Cowichan Island Cowichan Island (Upper) Cowichan Island (Lower)

Regular Agenda - March 13, 2017 - Supplemental Page 97

Heather Mink Zuvich

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:19 AM
To: David Carson
Cc: Board Communications; info@sooke.ca
Subject: New Sooke Library

Dear Mr. David Carson,

I wish to register my support for a CENTRAL location for the proposed new Sooke Library, and to state my opposition to a SEAPARC location. I am an 80-year-old new resident of Sooke, who chose this community in part because of the central location of most services, and the walkability such centrality provides. A SEAPARC location would compromise my ability to use the library.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Administration
Box 3333 | 6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

March 3, 2017

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Original sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for outlining your preferences for a new library for the Sooke community. While I can understand your desire to have a centrally housed Sooke branch, finding a location in the downtown core that balances a number of factors and that aligns with our budget, is a very real challenge.

As of yet, no final decisions have been made, but as you may well have read in the local media, our lease at the current facility ends in December 2018. We would like to avoid entering into a retail lease agreement at that time and the only way to ensure this is to finalize a parcel of land for your new Sooke branch. Time is of the essence.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Avis".

Barry Avis
Board Chair, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Cc: Mayor and Council, District of Sooke
Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees
Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services and Planning, VIRL
Joel Adams, Director of Finance, VIRL
David Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications, VIRL

Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

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Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen
Creston Esquimalt Victoria (North) Victoria (South) Sooke Stuart Cowichan Island (Sooke) Ladysmith Island (Sooke) Victoria (West)

Regular Agenda - March 13, 2017 - Supplemental Page 99

Heather Mink Zuvich

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:28 AM
To: Board Communications; David Carson
Cc: mtait@sooke.ca; [REDACTED]
Subject: Sooke's New Library

Dear VIRL Trustees, This email is a plea from a senior citizen to not locate Sooke's new library next to SEAPARC but to build it as was originally intended on Wadams Way. Libraries are precious assets and are the heart of any community. It is here that citizens meet and grow emotionally and intellectually. To do this libraries have to be inclusive and accessible. Libraries promote social networks, help prevent social isolation, nurture mental and physical health and encourage responsible citizenry. I walk to the existing Sooke library almost everyday. It is a gem and I often leave in high spirits having learned something new or met someone interesting. The SEAPARC site is not easy to get to for people like me who live in central Sooke and don't drive. Yes there is a public bus service to the leisure centre but it only runs every two hours. So please don't build the new library there.

[REDACTED]



Original sent via email:

Thank you for outlining your preferences for a new library for the Sooke community. While I can understand your desire to have a centrally housed Sooke branch, finding a location in the downtown core that balances a number of factors and that aligns with our budget, is a very real challenge.

As of yet, no final decisions have been made, but as you may well have read in the local media, our lease at the current facility ends in December 2018. We would like to avoid entering into a retail lease agreement at that time and the only way to ensure this is to finalize a parcel of land for your new Sooke branch. Time is of the essence.

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Barry Ains

Barry Avis
Board Chair, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Cc: Mayor Maja Tait, District of Sooke
Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees
Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL
Jamie Anderson, Director of Library Services and Planning, VIRL
Joel Adams, Director of Finance, VIRL
David Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications, VIRL

Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo North Nanaimo Wellington Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen Charlotte Park River Stikine Terrace Tsumanville Sooke Stuart Island Tofino Victoria West Vancouver Whistler



Media Releases



Media Advisory

***Score with Reading* at Nanaimo Harbourfront Library!**

Monday, January 30, 2017

Hockey and literacy are taking over Nanaimo Harbourfront Library on Saturday, February 11. Back for the sixth year in a row, *Score with Reading* is bigger than ever and promises to be a memorable family afternoon for fans of hockey and reading alike.

**Saturday, February 11, 2017
Harbourfront Library and Diana Krall Plaza
Nanaimo, 1 – 3 pm**

The fun starts at 1pm inside the library with members of the BCHL Nanaimo Clippers reading from their favourite books. Then everyone will head outside (weather permitting) to the Diana Krall Plaza for a game of street hockey with Clippers players and VIRL's very own Tales the Whale mascot.

The Clippers players will also be signing autographs for anyone who wants one.

This is the second year in a row that the BCHL, with the motto *Smart Hockey*, has made *Score with Reading* its league-wide education-based initiative.

####

For more information contact:

David Carson, Divisional Manager, Communications
250.753.1154 ex 248
dcarson@virl.bc.ca

About Score with Reading

Score with Reading was born of VIRL librarian Jason Kuffler's passions for hockey and engaging reluctant readers. In 2012, he combined these passions and came up with the idea of targeting primary school reluctant readers and engaging them through their hockey heroes.

The first *Score* was held in December of 2012 with players from the Nanaimo Clippers talking about their careers and their educational goals. The players then read to the kids, signed autographs and took photos. In 2014, a street hockey game was added to the mix and it was a huge hit.

In 2015, Jason connected with the BCHL and *Score* became the BCHL's league-wide, education-based initiative in January of 2016. In 2016, seven BCHL teams and their local libraries participated in *Score* province-wide. The BCHL has again made *Score* their education-based initiative for 2017.

A mentorship component for reluctant readers was created in September 2016 when Jason connected with the Community Liaison for the Nanaimo Clippers who agreed that it would be an excellent initiative for the team to participate in. With the Clippers on board, Jason partnered with School District 68 from North and South Nanaimo to participate.

Additional funding for the program was provided by the Lions Club.

The mentorship program consists of three events:

- A meet-and-greet (held December 10, 2016 at Nanaimo Harbourfront and North libraries)
- A Skate with the Clippers event at Frank Crane Arena (January 22)
- The main event at Nanaimo Harbourfront, including the street hockey game in the Diana Krall Plaza, happening on February 11 from 1 – 3pm

VIRL's Cowichan branch is also hosting *Score with Reading* on February 11.

In September of 2016 it was announced that Nanaimo would be one of Rogers Sportsnet's Hometown Hockey host cities. *Score with Reading* has been submitted to Hometown Hockey by the local organizing committee for consideration for the February 26 national broadcast during a game between the Ottawa Senators and Florida Panthers.

With Jason's tireless commitment, *Score with Reading* is poised to grow even bigger in the years ahead.

About Vancouver Island Regional Library

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.

Executive Committee and Officers of Library Board Elected at 2017 Annual General Meeting

NANAIMO, January 31, 2017 – On January 21, 2017, the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board of Trustees held its Annual General Meeting and elected its officers and Executive Committee members for 2017.

Barry Avis, who represents the Town of Qualicum Beach, was elected as Board Chair. Barry has been a member of the VIRL Board since 2015 as well as having served on the Board and as member of the Executive Committee in previous years. Elected as Vice-Chair, Brenda Leigh has also served the Board in previous years as both member of the Executive Committee and as Vice-Chair. Brenda represents the Strathcona Regional District.

Nine members at large were elected to serve on the Board of Trustees Executive Committee:

- Gordon Waterman (Village of Gold River)
- Bill Beldessi (North Coast Regional District)
- Howard Houle (Regional District of Nanaimo)
- Kerrie Reay (District of Sooke)
- Diane Brennan (City of Nanaimo)
- Jason Thompson (Village of Masset)
- Steve Arnett (Town of Ladysmith)
- Ron Kerr (City of Campbell River)
- Tom Duncan (City of Duncan)

Newly appointed members to the Board of Trustees this year include Jason Thompson (Village of Masset), Hugh MacKinnon (Town of Comox), Frank Johnson (Central Coast Regional District), Rod Nichol (Comox Valley Regional District), Heidi Soltau (Regional District of Mount Waddington) and Fred Robertson (District of Port Hardy).

The Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees, which is comprised of elected representatives from 28 member municipalities and 10 regional districts, administers a budget of over \$20 million.

For more information about the 2017 Board of Trustees, including elected officers, please visit us at <http://virl.bc.ca/about-us/library-board>.

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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.

New Nanaimo Wellington branch coming to Central Nanaimo this Spring

Monday, February 20, 2017, Nanaimo, BC: Central Nanaimo library customers can soon look forward to a new and improved Wellington branch at the conveniently located Country Club Centre. The current facility, which welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year, is no longer adequately serving the more than 20,000 residents in the Wellington area due to its small size, restricted parking, age, and required maintenance.

"During our public consultation in 2015, we heard loud and clear from the community what they want their library to be," says Director of Library Services Jamie Anderson. "When we factored in community needs, the cost of renovating the current facility, and opportunities to improve library services, it became clear that a new location was the most viable option. I'm confident that the purpose-built space at Country Club Centre will exceed our community's expectations."

Due in part to its age, the Nanaimo Wellington branch ranked high on the priority list for improvement in VIRL's [Consolidated Facilities Master Plan](#). The location at Country Club Centre:

- Meets our budget
- Provides the necessary space
- Has improved parking
- Is within the immediate service area
- Has access to a major transit hub and flexible hours
- Is accessible for people with disabilities and has an outdoor book drop

In addition to an exciting new location, the purpose-built facility will provide:

- Space for a community-tailored collection, including new books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and CDs
- The same hours of operation as the current facility
- New public computers
- Computer stations with literacy software specifically for children
- More public space with comfortable lounge seating for reading, quiet study areas, collaborative spaces, and areas for children's programs

The current branch will close on Saturday, March 11 and the new facility is slated to open in early-to-mid May. Construction updates will be provided on our website and social media channels. More information is available at **virl.bc.ca**.

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Media Release

Buds to Blossoms cultivates new connections on Gabriola Island

Thursday, February 23, 2017, Gabriola Island, BC: Gabriola Island is a close-knit community, but many of our young families are separated from grandparents, aunts and uncles, and island grandparents have children and relatives who live far away. For many Gabriola Islanders, social isolation and loneliness are very real, every day, challenges.

The new Buds to Blossoms program at Vancouver Island Regional Library's Gabriola Island branch aims to bring families and would-be grandparents together to forge new friendships and reduce the loneliness and isolation experienced by some Islanders.

"This really is a grassroots program," says Gabriola Island Librarian Amy Dawley. "I was approached by some young Gabriola families who were eager to connect with grandparents on the Island, but these groups often move in different circles and attend different events. The parents were looking for an opportunity to bridge that gap and bring people together, and what better place than the library? It's like an adopt-a-trail program but with grandparents and kids!"

Buds to Blossoms has the goal of being that bridge the parents were hoping for. The program starts on Friday, March 3 and runs every Friday from 3 – 4:30 pm until March 24. Island grandparents and families with young children are invited to come together for crafting, playing with toys, and simply visiting together.

The program is free of charge and open to everyone.

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For more Information

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Renovated library for the community of Sidney is underway

Friday, March 10, 2017, Sidney, BC: Vancouver Island Regional Library is set to unveil renovation options for a new Sidney Library. Everyone is invited to see the options being considered to better serve the community at an informative and interactive presentation that will include VIRL staff and the architects leading the project.

Wednesday, March 22
6:30 – 8pm
Sidney/North Saanich Branch
10091 Resthaven Drive
Sidney, BC V8L 3G3

The renovation is being funded through VIRL's capital reserves. No borrowing is required.

More information will be made available at the information session.

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For more Information

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Strong Libraries ■ Strong Communities

Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo North Nanaimo Wellington Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen Charlotte Sechelt Skidegate Smith's Bay Spinnaker Spring South Forks Strait of Juan de Fuca Union Bay Woss