

Report to the April 14, 2014 DIRA AGM on the activities of the VIRL/DIRA Liaison function for 2013/14

Terms of Reference (as you may have noticed, I try and reaffirm these TOR's annually.)

DIRA Liaison to VIRL Mission Statement and Terms of Reference

Mission Statement

To assist the community of Denman Island to acquire a branch of VIRL at the earliest possible moment

Terms of Reference

- 1. As Denman is scheduled to acquire a VIRL branch at some point in the future, the role of the DIRA Liaison is to facilitate ongoing communications between the Denman Community, DIRA and VIRL*
- 2. The DIRA Liaison to the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) will facilitate regular reciprocal communication between VIRL and DIRA by meetings and e-mail*
- 3. The DIRA Liaison will recommend strategies to DIRA to keep the entire community and DIRA current on any developing initiatives related to the implementation of a VIRL Branch Library on Denman Island*

Report

The painstakingly unpretentious role of VIRL/DIRA Liaison, as engineered by yours truly for the most part, has existed for the past nine years. While this past year has seen barely a ripple of substantive liaison activity occurring, there has been a modicum of hope in that somewhere within the bureaucratic reaches of VIRL, a budget for outreach to certain communities not blessed with an actual physical library is being assembled. While I continue to seek but have yet to achieve any details as to how this program is going to unfold, I do have faith.

Next Steps

The Dora Drinkwater Community Library continues to provide direct service to Denman Islanders. I am happy to report that we have a strong contingent of volunteers and that, in particular, our children and youth programming continues to evolve. Jean Cockburn's article in the March Flagstone fully summarized the past year of the Dora.

While our Island continues to benefit from VIRL programs such as Books by Mail, the reality is brought home every day that economics inhibit broadening service. Whether it is Ferry service, or Library service, there is a greater cost to provisioning an Island.

As I mentioned last year, and perhaps in earlier reports, The CVRD continues to provide, at our annual request, a reasonably consistent contribution via Grants in Aid to allow the collection to be replenished. This is done in concert with smaller but nevertheless helpful streams of income.

As well, given the snail's pace progress I have made (and here I insult snails) while I am willing to continue this less-than-challenging volunteer position, I have been performing the role for a number of years and am more than willing to step aside if an energetic replacement is found.

Respectfully submitted on March 11, 2014

Bill Engleson, DIRA-VIRL Liaison