

Report to the April 13, 2015 DIRA AGM on the minimal activities of the VIRL/DIRA Liaison function for 2014/15

Terms of Reference

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

Unlike last year when there was barely a ripple of progress, this year saw the gentle but valuable impact of VIRL's new e-librarian service. A couple of workshops, inaugurated by VIRL's pleasant and informative e-Librarian, Emily Orr, occurred. I attended two of them. The first workshop fell during the Readers Writers festival and was poorly attended. The second, in November, with more lead time and promotion from Denman Works, was very well attended and clearly demonstrated her skills and her versatility.

As noted last year, this somewhat innovative position, while it in no way replaces the experience of having an actual physical public library, does speak to the willingness of VIRL to provide tangible on-Island services.

Midway through the year, to streamline DIRA meetings just a tad, I ceased reporting the lack of progress at monthly DIRA meetings. Should any movement occur that even hints at progress, a report will be fashioned for a DIRA meeting.

Next Steps

(almost totally repeated from last year)

As always, 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 and the new e-Librarian function, 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 the year before, and, no doubt 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.

Liaison Role

This position continues, I believe, in order to keep the issue in a modest limelight. Economic realities, as mentioned above, suggest to me that any political will to create a public branch on Denman is muted. If anyone wants to assume the role, I would be happy to step aside.

Respectfully submitted on March 28, 2014

Bill Engleson, DIRA-VIRL Liaison