

ABCPLD meets in Victoria

By Jim Bertoia.

Members of the Association of Public Library Directors of British Columbia (ABCPLD) met in advance of the British Columbia Library Conference on April 6th at the Greater Victoria Public Library.

Greater Victoria Public Library

The 28 public library directors from across British Columbia were welcomed by new Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) CEO Maureen Sawa. Sawa spoke about her challenges over the first six months as CEO. She spoke of her push to make the Victoria library more visible in the community, thus the new banners on the downtown branch, and her alliances with other city institutions such as the Greater Victoria Art Gallery.

Dan Phillips (Manager IT Solutions) and Lynne Jordan (Deputy CEO and Director of Strategic Development) presented the library's new facilities plan entitled "Making Space for the Future," which received an award from the Planning Institute of B.C. Their presentation set the stage for a half-day tour of three of the GVPL's branches: Goudy (an example of an express branch), Juan de Fuca (a district library) and Saanich Centennial (a community branch.)

Public Library Services Branch

At the regular business meeting after lunch, Jacqueline van Dyk, Director of Public Library Services Branch updated the directors on the initiatives of PLSB and their impact on libraries across B.C.

Review Working Group Report

The major focus of business was the ABCPLD Review Working Group Report, which grew out of a SWOT analysis done at the September 2010 meeting. With the new fiscal reality facing the Association, the Report addressed issues such as membership recruitment and retention, and the need to adopt a balanced budget in future years.

It also took a look at: the role, purpose, and mandate of ABCPLD; communication and marketing; meetings; and the structure of the Association. The conclusion was that "there is, indeed, a role for ABCPLD to play in the lives of busy public library directors."

New executive

Lynne Russell of Port Moody was elected Chair for 2011-2012, with Rob O'Brennan of Fraser Valley Regional Library elected Vice Chair-Chair Elect. Audrey Fennema, of Fraser Lake, agreed to stand as Treasurer for another year, and Jim Bertoia of Sparwood, who stepped in as Secretary at the fall 2010 meeting agreed remain as Secretary.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30th at the new City Centre Branch of the Surrey Public Library.

For more information, including copies of the Review Report and GVPL's Strategic plan, please visit the ABCPLD website at www.abcpld.ca, or contact Chair Lynne Russell at the Port Moody Public Library.

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