

# PUBLIC LIBRARIES CAN'T LIVE ON *Love* ALONE

As a library user, you know that your library provides extremely important services to your community. But the municipal governments of the Capital Regional District are threatening a significant budget cut that could jeopardize these services.

## Library Business Is Booming...

- Population of the Capital Regional District: 294,000. Number of active borrowers in the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) system: 174,000. More than 1,500 new members register each month.
- Since 1996, citizen demand has led to the expansion of library services to six more municipalities: Colwood, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, Central Saanich, and View Royal. The Juan de Fuca branch was opened in 1997, the Central Saanich branch was added in 2002, and the new Esquimalt branch opened in 2003. Service hours continue to increase, too. Sunday, Monday and evening openings are expanding across the system each year.
- GVPL is currently expanding again, building a new branch at the Pearkes Recreation Centre. This will be the fourth branch located in Saanich, and both the collection and the design of the building are focussed on family literacy.

## But We Can't Keep Up

- In the last ten years, circulation at the GVPL has increased by 64.7%. However, after adjustment for inflation, the total library budget has increased by only 33%. Library staff are barely managing to keep pace. Between 1996 and 2004, full-time-equivalent hours increased by only 13.6%. And library workers remain the lowest-paid municipal workers in the Capital Regional District.
- The cost of library services to the municipalities remains low, ranging from 1.08% (View Royal) to 2.6% (Saanich) of total municipal budgets. But despite the reasonable costs, municipal councillors don't seem to want library funding to keep pace with the demand for service.

## What Is at Risk?

Many things are in jeopardy if the proposed municipal budget cuts go ahead: Monday and/or Sunday openings throughout the system; the purchase of new books and other materials; continued holds on DVDs; public Internet terminals and training; and access to programs that support family literacy.

**YOUR LIBRARY NEEDS  
YOUR HELP**

# HOW YOU CAN HELP



We don't believe that the library system should be a victim of its own success. And many users don't either. You can help your library thrive and grow to better meet your needs. Demand increased funding to the library system now from your municipal councillors.

## What to do:

- Fill out one of our "Libraries Can't Live on Love Alone" postcards and send it in to your municipal hall. Or drop it off at your library's information desk and we'll mail it for you.
- Telephone or write to your municipal councillors and demand funding increases to the GVPL that keep pace with population, user demand and costs.
- Join the Friends of the Library, and become an official library advocate. See the Friends' website for more information: <http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/Friends/>

Victoria City Hall  
 #1 Centennial Square  
 Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
 (250) 385-5711

Oak Bay Municipal Hall  
 2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
 Victoria, BC V8R 1G2  
 (250) 598-3311

Esquimalt Town Hall  
 1229 Esquimalt Road  
 Victoria, BC V9A 3P1  
 (250) 414-7100

Central Saanich Municipal Hall  
 1903 Mount Newton Cross Road  
 Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9  
 (250) 652-4444

Saanich Municipal Hall  
 770 Vernon Avenue  
 Victoria, BC V8X 2W7  
 (250) 475-1775

Langford City Hall  
 2nd floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue  
 Victoria, BC V9B 2X8  
 (250) 478-7882

City of Colwood  
 3300 Wishart Road  
 Victoria, BC V9C 1R1  
 (250) 478-5541

View Royal Town Hall  
 45 View Royal Avenue  
 Victoria, BC V9B 1A6  
 (250) 479-6800

HELP SPREAD THE WORD:  
 LIBRARIES CAN'T LIVE ON *Love* ALONE!



**CUPE 410 Greater Victoria Public Library Employees**  
 Victoria | Oak Bay | Esquimalt | Saanich | Central Saanich  
 Colwood | View Royal | Langford

