

To: Toronto Public Library Board – February 20, 2006

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Bookmobile Schedule – 2006**

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of the annual review for the bookmobile service and the bookmobile schedule for 2006.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

None.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board receive the *Bookmobile Schedule – 2006* report for information.

Background:

Two bookmobiles provide library service at 32 stops across the city in underserved areas and for target populations including young children, seniors and newcomers. Most of the stops are provided weekly while some are provided bi-weekly. Every year, there is a review of all bookmobile stops. The primary evaluative criteria are derived from the City and Library reports of at-risk neighbourhoods that identified priority communities. The secondary criteria are the performance data of each bookmobile stop.

From 2004 to 2005, there were no changes to the schedule with the exception of the cancellation of the St. James Town stop when the new branch opened. Alternative service was also provided for the temporary branch closures at Beaches, Malvern, Morningside and Northern Elms.

Comments:

Overall, the bookmobile average headcount per stop was 39 and the average circulation per hour was 77. The performance benchmarks are a minimum of 15 people per stop and a minimum circulation per hour of 77¹.

¹ Average circulation for neighbourhood libraries in 2004

Changes to the current bookmobile schedule will be made to five stops. Service will expand from bi-weekly to weekly service at two stops. The scheduling of three stops will be adjusted and changed. Three stops will be cancelled and replaced with three new ones. Library staff have contacted City councillors and consulted with customers affected by the changes. The following summary identifies the changes and additions to the bookmobile schedule that will be implemented in March. The 2006 bookmobile schedule and map are attached.

Expand service at:

Martinway Plaza

This bi-weekly stop has a circulation per hour of 130 and a headcount of 50, and is identified on the Library's list of priority neighbourhoods. It will be expanded to weekly service.

Glamorgan

This bi-weekly stop has a circulation per hour of 109 and a headcount of 54. This location is identified on the City's list of priority neighbourhoods. It will be expanded to weekly service.

Adjust services at:

North Kipling

This bi-weekly stop is located in the parking lot that serves the North Kipling Community Centre and North Kipling Public School. This location is identified on the City and Library's list of priority neighbourhoods. It will be changed from an evening to after-school service to attract higher usage from school-age children.

Kingston Road

This stop is split over two locations. The first half-hour is at the intersection of Kingston Road and Old Kingston Road in the vicinity of a seniors' apartment, a nursing home and a daycare. The second half-hour is at a motel that provides City-funded emergency shelter at the intersection of Kingston Road and Beechgrove.

There is minimal usage in the first half hour despite repeated promotional activities. A deposit collection will be provided at the seniors' apartment and nursing home and the stop at the motel expanded from ½ hour to one hour.

Swansea Plaza

This weekly stop is provided on Saturdays from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m. In the last half hour, only one or two customers are served. The time will change to 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.

Cancel service at:

Camargue, Cliffside Plaza and Scarlettwood

These bi-weekly stops are provided in areas with many high-rise and low-rise apartments. The usage has remained low since their introduction in 2001 despite promotional activities and scheduling changes from morning to evening time slots. None of these stops are located in areas identified on the City and Library's lists of priority neighbourhoods.

Add three new stops at:

Morningside Heights

Morningside Heights is a developing residential community in the north-east corner of the city, an underserved area that is at a distance from Malvern Library. A bi-weekly after-school stop will be introduced near the Thomas L. Wells Public School.

Chetta Place

Chetta Place, off Dixon Road between Kipling and Islington, is located in a high-needs area with five schools, three daycare facilities and a community centre. It is located in or adjacent to the City and Library's priority neighbourhoods. A bi-weekly after-school stop will be established.

Oakridge

The Oakridge community, at Danforth Avenue and Pharmacy, is located in a high-needs area surrounded by several apartment complexes and three schools. It is located in or adjacent to the City and Library's priority neighbourhoods. A bi-weekly evening stop will be established.

Conclusion:

The bookmobile service continues to provide a flexible and timely response to changing community needs. As community demands shift, the scheduling and location of stops can be changed to provide service where the need is greatest.

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List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: Bookmobile Schedule 2006

Attachment 2: Bookmobile Stops 2006 – Map