



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

11.

Dufferin / St. Clair Branch – Closure for Renovation

Date:	June 11, 2007
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

Dufferin / St. Clair Branch will be closed for renovation for approximately one year. Alternate service will be provided at nearby branches and through outreach programs in the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the closure of the Dufferin / St. Clair branch for approximately one year; and
2. approves the plans for alternate service for the duration of the closure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of providing the recommended alternate service during the closure is accommodated within the operating budget. Additional savings resulting from the closure are used to offset the assigned gapping target.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

The Dufferin / St. Clair Branch will be closed for approximately one year for renovations. The closure is expected to begin during the summer 2007.

The local community has been aware of the project since May 26, 2005 when the first public consultation was held. A second public meeting was held on November 2, 2006. A total of 48 customers attended the public meetings and another 13 submitted their comments in writing.

COMMENTS

Length of closure, branch service level and use, community make-up, proximity of nearby branches and budget impact are key considerations in developing alternate service plans. For Dufferin / St. Clair, the concurrent closure of the nearby Bloor / Gladstone District Branch including the alternate service plan in effect there, is another factor considered in determining what alternate service to provide.

The Dufferin / St. Clair area is a diverse neighbourhood where most people either walk to the Library or use public transit. There is a significant number of families that use the branch as well as newcomers and established immigrants.

The goal of the alternate service plan for Dufferin / St. Clair is to focus on services that maintain a strong connection with children, youth and newcomer families in the community, to continue to build on community partnerships and to direct customers to access collections in nearby branches.

Alternate Service Plans:

For the duration of the closure, the following plan will be in effect:

- outreach and program delivery at area schools, daycares and community agencies;
- temporary relocation of multilingual collections to nearby branches;
- direct patrons to pick up holds and use branches in close proximity and that are also accessible by public transit including St. Clair / Silverthorn, Oakwood Village, Perth / Dupont, Davenport, Maria A. Shchuka and Wychwood branches;
- temporary relocation of key programs including Leading to Reading, to nearby branches.

In addition, weekly bookmobile service is being provided in the vicinity at the Dufferin Mall as part of the Bloor / Gladstone District Branch alternate service plan.

Within two weeks prior to the closure, staff will hold a community open house in order to answer questions, speak with customers on an individual basis and provide appropriate referrals for library service during the period of closure. Flyers, press releases and newspaper ads will also be provided to ensure the closure is well-publicized.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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