



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

12.

Thorncliffe Branch – Closure for Renovation / Expansion

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

SUMMARY

Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Branch will be closed for approximately one year for renovation and expansion. Alternate service will be provided at a temporary Bookmobile stop, 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 Thorncliffe 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 alternate service plan is accommodated within the operating budget. Additional savings resulting from the branch 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 Thorncliffe Branch will be closed for approximately one year for renovation and expansion. The closure is expected to begin during the summer of 2007.

The Library project is part of a comprehensive plan to renovate and expand the Jenner Jean Marie Community Centre, Thorncliffe Branch Library and Thorncliffe Day Care. All three will provide some alternate service in the community during the closure.

The local community has been aware of the project since 2005 through several public meetings held by the local councillor, a sod turning ceremony in September 2006 and a series of focus groups held in the branch with library customers in 2007.

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 Thorncliffe, the concurrent closure of the S. Walter Stewart District Branch including the alternate service plan in effect there, is another factor considered in determining what alternate service to provide.

Thorncliffe Park is a priority neighbourhood where most people walk to the Library. The branch is heavily used by children and young people. There currently is no viable affordable space in the community to create an alternate library branch service and funds to support this level of service are not included in the project or operating budgets. However, opportunities are available to maintain a strong library presence in Thorncliffe Park.

The goal of the Library's alternate service plan for Thorncliffe is to focus on services that maintain a strong connection with children and youth in the community, that provide options for customers to access collections and that build on community partnerships.

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 agencies including Thorncliffe Park Public School, Ontario Early Years Centre, and Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office and its Youth Centre;
- Bookmobile service will be scheduled one weekday morning and Sunday afternoons at East York Town Centre;
- direct patrons to pick up holds and use branches in close proximity and that are also accessible by public transit including Flemingdon Park, Leaside and Pape/Danforth Branches;
- temporary relocation of key programs including Leading to Reading, to nearby branches;
- temporary relocation of multilingual collections to nearby branches.

Prior to the closure, staff will hold an 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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