

Fairview Branch – Closure and Alternate Service Plan

Date:	May 28, 2012
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

Fairview Branch will be closing for renovations in the summer of 2012. This report requests approval for the closure of approximately 12 months, and for the provision of alternative service for the duration of the closure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the closure of the Fairview Branch for approximately 12 months; and
2. approves the plans for alternate service for the duration of the closure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the operating budget.

The Director of Finance has reviewed this Financial Impact Statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

The Fairview Branch renovation is part of the Library's approved 2012 - 2021 capital budget.

COMMENTS

The Fairview Branch will be closed for renovation for approximately 12 months. The closure is expected to begin in the summer of 2012.

The local community was formally made aware of the project in April 2011 when public consultation was initiated. Comment forms were made available and the public was invited to participate in a focus group. Six focus groups were held to solicit feedback from the public as well as the Fairview Interagency Network, an English as a Second Language class, the branch's Youth Advisory Group and theatre groups. An open house was held on March 7, 2012 to present the results of the design phase and to seek feedback. In total, 153 people attended the open house and focus groups. Written submissions were another means of providing input to the process with 24 comments received on feedback forms that were made available in the branch or through the website.

The Fairview Branch is a large and popular district library with a theatre, located near the Fairview Mall and subway station.

The goal of the Library's alternate services plan for Fairview is to spread the impact of the closure of this large branch by relocating some services, programs and collections. Theatre groups have been offered alternative space at York Woods theatre and four of the five resident community theatre groups will relocate to York Woods during the closure. Community residents will be provided with options to access collections and services, including a weekly bookmobile stop and expanded hours at neighbouring locations. Outreach and some programming will continue off site and in neighbourhood branches. Continued participation in Fairview Interagency Network will ensure partnerships with other agencies are maintained.

Plan for Alternate Service

For the duration of the closure the following plans will be in effect:

- weekly bookmobile service;
- extend service hours at nearby Pleasant View and Hillcrest branches to 65.5 hours per week;
- relocate Sunday service to the Bayview Branch;
- relocate selected collections to nearby branches;
- relocate Leading to Reading to nearby branches;
- relocate Adult Literacy program to Don Mills Branch;
- continue to provide outreach services for children and young adults such as Kindergarten outreach, promotion of Summer Reading Club and visits to schools;
- relocate Ready for Reading early literacy programming to locations within the vicinity of Fairview;
- maintain contact with community groups and agencies through the Fairview Interagency Network;
- encourage customers to access the full range of neighbourhood and district library services available at other branches in proximity to the Fairview Branch, including Bayview, Pleasant View, Hillcrest.

Prior to the closure, staff will display the plans and will be available to answer questions, speak with customers on an individual basis and provide appropriate referrals for library service during the period of the closure. Flyers, press releases, and newspaper ads will also be provided to ensure that the closure is well-publicized. Updates during the renovation will keep users informed of the progress through the construction and reopening phases.

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SIGNATURE

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