



# 13.

To: Toronto Public Library Board – June 19, 2006

From: City Librarian

Subject: **S. Walter Stewart Branch – Closure for Renovation**

Purpose:

To seek Toronto Public Library Board approval for the closure of the S. Walter Stewart Branch for approximately one year, and the provision of alternate service for the duration of the closure.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

The cost of providing the recommended alternate service plan during the closure can be accommodated within the operating budget.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve the closure of the S. Walter Stewart Branch for approximately one year, for renovation, and that the plans for alternate service be approved for the duration of the closure.

Comments:

S. Walter Stewart District Branch will be closed for approximately one year for renovations. The closure is expected to begin in August 2006, pending the tendering process and award of construction contract.

The local community has been aware of the proposed renovation since June 2005 when the first public meeting was held. A second public meeting was held in February 2006, and five focus group meetings were held in between the two public meetings to gather more detailed feedback from customers about the renovation. Over 100 people participated in the public meetings and focus groups, and over 100 comments forms have been received.

In response to the local community, for the duration of the closure, the hours of service at the Todmorden Room will be extended from 27 hours to 40 hours per week. Sunday service will be relocated to Dawes Road Branch and adult literacy programming will be moved to the Danforth/Coxwell Branch. The program room at the East York Community Centre will be booked in order to provide children's programming.

In addition, there are a number of Library branches that S. Walter Stewart customers will naturally use due to their proximity. These include Danforth/Coxwell, Pape/Danforth, Todmorden Room, Dawes Road and Eglinton Square.

Several weeks prior to S. Walter Stewart Branch closure, staff will hold a community open house in order to answer questions, talk with customers on an individual basis and provide appropriate referrals for library service during the period of closure. Flyers, press releases and newspaper advertisements will also be provided to ensure the closure is well publicized.

Conclusion:

Board approval is requested for the closure of the S. Walter Stewart Branch for approximately one year and for the alternate service plan for the duration of the closure, as detailed in this report.

Contact:

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Josephine Bryant  
City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.