



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Fairview Branch – Closure for Renovation

Date: September 18, 2023

To: Toronto Public Library Board

From: City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Toronto Public Library Board approval for the closure of Fairview branch for renovation for approximately twelve weeks.

Fairview branch is expected to close around the end of September 2023 and once work is completed on the first floor, the branch will reopen with limited service until work is completed on the third floor. The construction tender was awarded over the summer of 2023.

Alternative library service will be provided during the branch closure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the closure of the Fairview branch for approximately twelve weeks for renovation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Fairview construction tender was awarded over the summer and is described in another September 18, 2023 Board report, *Extended Authority Awards*. Closure of the branch is not expected to have a significant financial impact.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

COMMENTS

The nature and cost of the renovation work on the first and third floors of the Fairview branch is described in another report, *Extended Authority Awards*. Work will be prioritized on the first floor and once that is completed, the branch will reopen with limited service until work is completed on the third floor.

At the start of construction, the entire Fairview branch will be closing for approximately twelve weeks for work related to washroom upgrades on the main floor and demolition on the third floor mezzanine. For the duration of the full closure the following alternate service plans will be in effect:

- direct users to pick-up Holds at nearby Pleasant View branch;
- encourage users to visit nearby branches in close proximity with easy TTC access such as Pleasant View, Hillcrest and newly opened Ethennonnhawahstihnen' branch;
- increase programming and service offerings at nearby Hillcrest and Ethennonnhawahstihnen' branches;
- staff will be temporarily relocated and continue to operate from nearby locations, including Adult Literacy Services, Leading to Reading, and Room Bookings and Venue Rental administration;
- continue to provide outreach services such as Kindergarten and Grade 4 Outreach, promotion for visits to schools, child care centres, after school programs, parent/child programs, and outreach to clients of community agencies; and
- The Fairview Theatre will continue operations and will not be impacted by the Fairview branch closure or renovation

When construction on the main floor is completed, the Fairview branch will reopen the main floor, prior to completion of the third floor, with reduced

services. The other three floors will remain closed to the public until the third floor mezzanine project is finished. Hours of operations at Fairview will return to 65.5 hours, plus Sunday service. Staff are finalizing details of services to be provided from the first floor and this will include:

- Holds pick-up;
- checkout and check-in of library materials;
- library information services;
- access to public computers;
- browsing of a reduced, staff curated collection;
- access to main floor seating for reading and study;
- early literacy programming;
- Youth Hub service;
- Access to public washrooms including the new universal washroom on the main floor; and
- Parking will continue to be available, however, may be impacted by construction.

Library customers will be kept informed of the progress of the renovation at the Fairview branch via in-branch notices and updates on the branch renovation webpage. The local Councillor will be kept informed.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

