

To: Toronto Public Library Board – November 20, 2006

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Bloor/Gladstone Branch – Closure for Renovation**

Purpose:

To seek Toronto Public Library Board approval for the closure of the Bloor/Gladstone District 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 Bloor/Gladstone Branch for approximately one year for renovation, and that the plans for alternate service be approved for the duration of the closure.

Comments:

The Bloor/Gladstone District Branch will be closed for approximately one year for renovations. The closure is expected to begin early in 2007.

The local community has been aware of the project since May 31, 2005, when the first public consultation was held. A second public meeting was held on October 26, 2005. Between the public meetings, a series of seven focus groups were held with staff and customers to receive more detailed feedback. A total of 149 customers attended the public focus groups, and another 20 submitted their comments in writing.

The closure leaves a gap in library services in the area, but also provides an opportunity to reach non-library users and develop community partnerships in accordance with the Toronto Public Library's Strategic Plan. The goal of the alternate service plan is to focus on services, highlighted in the Strategic Plan, which can be maintained with limited resources and through community partners.

For the duration of the closure, Library staff will deliver programs in space provided at the Dufferin Mall and the New Horizons Seniors Residence. Bookmobile service will be scheduled one weekday morning and Sunday afternoons at the Dufferin Mall.

There are a number of Library branches that Bloor/Gladstone branch customers may also use due to their proximity. The closest are Palmerston and College/Shaw branches.

Within the 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.

Conclusion:

Library Board approval is requested for the closure of the Bloor/Gladstone branch for approximately one year and for the alternate service plan for the duration of the closure, as detailed in this report.

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Josephine Bryant
City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.