



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Mount Dennis Branch – Closure for Renovation

Date:	June 7, 2011
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

Mount Dennis Branch will be closing for renovation in the fall of 2011. This report requests approval for the closure of approximately 18 months, and for the provision of alternate service for the duration of the closure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the closure of the Mount Dennis Branch for approximately 18 months; and
2. approves the plans for alternate service for the duration of the closure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

The Mount Dennis Branch renovation is part of the Library's 2011 capital budget.

COMMENTS

Length of closure, branch service level and use, community make-up, proximity of nearby branches and budget impact are key considerations in developing an alternate service plan.

The Mount Dennis Branch will be closed for renovation for approximately 18 months. The closure is expected to begin in the fall of 2011.

The local community was formally made aware of the project in November 3, 2010, when a public meeting for the community was held at the branch. This was followed by a well-attended open house at the branch that took place on April 7, 2011 to present the results of the design phase and to seek feedback. In the period between the two larger meetings, four focus groups were held with library users and stakeholders to receive more detailed input. In total, 127 people attended the public meeting, open house and focus groups. Written submissions were popular as a means of providing input to the process with 27 comments received on feedback forms that were made available in the branch or through electronic means. Comments continue to be received.

The Mount Dennis Branch is a popular neighbourhood library in the heart of the Weston/Mount Dennis Priority Neighbourhood.

The goal of the Library's alternate service plan for Mount Dennis is to provide access to library services through provision of a weekly bookmobile stop and through encouraging use of other nearby branches. The other goal is to focus on children's programming to maintain a strong connection with the community during the closure. Outreach to schools, especially for Kindergarten Outreach as well as for the summer reading club and continuing participation in community events is also included in the plan. Attendance at community events provides a good opportunity for the Library to update the public on the progress of the renovation.

Plans for Alternate Service

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

- weekly bookmobile service;
- multilingual collection materials in Spanish, Portuguese and Vietnamese through the other branches in the Maria A. Shchuka district;
- outreach services for children such as Kindergarten Outreach and promotion for the summer reading club;
- pre-school children's programming at locations within the district;
- ongoing outreach to community groups and agencies such as the Macaulay Child Development and Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF);
- continued participation in community events as appropriate;
- encourage customers to access the full range of neighbourhood and district library services available at other nearby branches in proximity to the Mount Dennis Branch including Weston, Jane/Dundas, Evelyn Gregory and Maria A. Shchuka;
- updates to keep users informed of the progress through the construction and reopening phases.

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 the closure. Flyers, press releases, and newspaper ads will also be provided to ensure that the closure is well-publicized.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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