

Kennedy/Eglinton Branch – Closure for Renovation and Expansion

Date:	June 16, 2008
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

Kennedy/Eglinton Branch will be closing for renovation and expansion in the summer of 2008. This report requests approval for the closure of approximately six 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 Kennedy/Eglinton Branch for approximately six months; and
2. approves the plans for alternate service for the duration of the closure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

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

DECISION HISTORY

The Kennedy/Eglinton Branch expansion project is part of the Library's 2008 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 alternate service plans.

The Kennedy/Eglinton Branch will be closed for renovation and expansion for approximately six months. The closure is expected to begin in the Summer of 2008.

The local community has been made aware of the project through a consultation process that included four focus groups (seniors, parents of preschoolers, local service providers, and youth) as well as an Open House on May 1, 2008.

The Kennedy/Eglinton Branch is a busy 40-hour neighbourhood branch that serves the Eglinton East/Kennedy Park priority neighbourhood. Many residents have voiced concerns about ongoing access to library services during the closure period.

The goal of the Library's alternate service plan for Kennedy/Eglinton is to focus on services that maintain a strong connection with children and youth in the community, provide options for customers to access collections and build on community partnerships.

Plans for Alternate Service

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

- provide bookmobile service one weekday morning;
- direct patrons to pick up holds and use branches in close proximity and that are also accessible by public transit including Albert Campbell, Eglinton Square and McGregor Park Branches;
- encourage local children's participation in the TD Summer Reading Club through distributing materials for children to complete on their own or at nearby branches or through the bookmobile stop; materials will also be distributed to daycares and summer camps in the community;
- relocate key programs temporarily including the English Can be Fun program for newcomer children, to nearby branches;
- maintain library presence in the community through participation in community fairs, visits to day care facilities, participation in school events such as fall literacy nights and parent information nights and visits to the Second Base Youth Shelter.

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

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SIGNATURE

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