

Brentwood Branch – Closure for Renovation

Date:	June 15, 2009
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

Brentwood Branch will be closing for renovation in the fall of 2009. 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 Brentwood Branch for approximately 18 months; and
2. approves the plans for alternate service for the duration of the closure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the operating budget.

The Director of Finance has reviewed this Financial Impact Statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

The Brentwood Branch renovation is part of the Library's approved 2009 - 2013 Capital Budget.

COMMENTS

The Brentwood Branch will be closed for renovation for approximately 18 months. The closure is expected to begin in the fall of 2009.

The local community has been made aware of this project since June 12, 2008 when the first Open House for the public was held. A second and very well-attended Open House took place on October 22, 2008. In the period between the two, three focus groups were held and the Youth Advisory Group and book clubs were consulted to receive more detailed feedback. In total, 202 people attended the open houses and focus groups. Written submissions were popular as a means of providing input to the process with more than 80 comments received on feedback forms that were made available in the branch or through electronic means. Comments continue to be received.

The Brentwood Branch is a popular district library in the heart of the Kingsway neighbourhood with easy access to the Royal York subway station. A few residents have voiced concerns about on-going access to library services during the closure period.

The goal of the Library's alternate service plan for Brentwood is to focus on programs and outreach that maintain a strong connection with children in the community. Continued participation in popular community festivals is also a priority as it provides a good opportunity to update customers on progress of the renovation and to maintain a vibrant library presence. Book clubs, an important aspect of service at Brentwood, will continue, and members have agreed on suitable alternate locations during the closure.

Every effort is being made to provide options for customers to access collections and services, and to build on community partnerships.

Plan for Alternate Service

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

- extend service hours at nearby Runnymede and Eatonville Branches by 1 hour per week each, remaining open at those branches until 6:00 p.m. on Fridays;
- relocate Sunday service to the Runnymede Branch;
- relocate multilingual collections to nearby branches;
- transfer Best Bets, new books and floating paperback collections to Richview Branch during the closure
- continue to provide outreach services for children such as Kindergarten Outreach, promotion for Summer Reading Club and visits to schools;
- relocate Ready for Reading early literacy programming to locations within the Brentwood vicinity;
- relocate key programs such as book clubs in the alternate locations selected by participating members;
- maintain contact within community groups and agencies such as the Mabelle Coalition and the Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services;
- continue to participate in key community events such as Paint the Street, Taste of the Kingsway, Kingsway Sidewalk Sale and the Police Open House;
- direct users to pick up holds and use nearby branches in close proximity with easy TTC access or adequate public parking including Mimico, Humber Bay, Runnymede, Eatonville, and Richview branches;

- promote the Mabelle bookmobile stop for those in the catchment who live close to the stop;
- utilize the Brentwood and Lakeshore Libraries Blog throughout the closure to promote library services and keep users updated on progress during construction.

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.

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SIGNATURE

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