

Cedarbrae Branch – Closure for Renovation

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

SUMMARY

Cedarbrae Branch will be closing for renovation in the Fall of 2008. 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 Cedarbrae Branch for approximately 18 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 Cedarbrae Branch renovation 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 Cedarbrae Branch will be closed for renovation for approximately 18 months. The closure is expected to begin in the Fall of 2008.

The local community has been made aware of the project since January 23, 2007 when the first public consultation meeting was held. A second public meeting took place on October 25, 2007. Between the public meetings, a series of nine focus groups were held with staff and customers to receive more detailed feedback. In total, 226 people attended the meetings and focus groups. Many additional comments were received in writing.

The Cedarbrae Branch is a large and busy district branch that serves several priority neighbourhoods in Toronto. 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 Cedarbrae is to focus on services that maintain a strong connection with children and youth in the community as well as those that serve the needs of newcomer Canadians. Every effort is being made to provide options for customers to access collections and to build on community partnerships.

Plans for Alternate Service

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

- extend Monday to Saturday service hours at the nearby Bendale Branch from 40 hours per week to 65.5 hours per week; provide study hall service on the lower level when space is not booked for programming;
- provide Sunday service at the Bendale Branch;
- provide temporary weekly bookmobile service at the Cedarbrae location;
- relocate the Cedarbrae Learning Centre to the Albert Campbell Branch;
- relocate significant multilingual collections to nearby branches, and provide multilingual materials through the bookmobile stop;
- continue to provide outreach services such as Kindergarten Outreach;
- maintain memberships in community groups such as Scarborough Village Neighbourhood Action Partnership;
- relocate key programs temporarily such as the Youth Advisory Group and the Book Club to nearby locations;
- direct patrons to pick up holds and use branches in close proximity and that are also accessible by public transit including Malvern, Albert Campbell, Bendale, Cliffcrest and Morningside Branches.

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.

CONTACT

Anne Bailey; Director, Branch Libraries; Tel: 416-397-5944; Fax: 416-393-7083;
E-mail: abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca

SIGNATURE

Josephine Bryant
City Librarian