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To: Toronto Public Library Board – March 24, 2003
From: City Librarian
Subject: **St. James Town Neighbourhood Branch Library - Naming**

Purpose:

To obtain Toronto Public Library Board approval for the name of its newest branch at 495 Sherbourne Street.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

None.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve the name, “St. James Town” as the official name of the new branch at 495 Sherbourne Street.

Background:

An official sod-turning ceremony to begin construction of the 99th branch of Toronto Public Library took place in January of this year. This new neighborhood branch is the result of *St. James Town 2000: A Community Action Plan*, issued in September 1997, which recommended the development of a multi-use facility with a recreation centre, a daycare centre and a public library. The City of Toronto secured a site at the northeast corner of Sherbourne and Wellesley for this facility in 1998.

The Library has been working since that time in partnership with Parks and Recreation and Community and Neighbourhood Services to develop this multi-use facility at 495 Sherbourne Street. Now that construction on the new facility has started and the materials for the new library collection are being ordered and received, it is necessary for the Board to officially name the new branch.

Comments:

The working name for the project to date has been the St. James Town Community Centre to reflect the origins of the multi-use facility in the action plan. Recent discussions with Councillor Pam McConnell, however, have indicated that the official name of the new facility is likely to be the Wellesley Community and Recreation Centre. This name has been proposed to reflect the broader catchment that the new Centre will serve. The proposed name also recognizes the

recently demolished Wellesley Hospital that stood on the northwest corner of Sherbourne and Wellesley across the street from the new Centre. The Wellesley Hospital will be replaced by a largely residential development on the site.

Councillor McConnell has indicated that there is strong community support for naming the new neighbourhood library in the centre, the St. James Town branch. While the branch will doubtless serve some of the wider catchment, the branch services and collections have been designed with the St. James Town Community foremost in mind. In addition, it is the desire of the community to retain some major recognition of the Centre's St. James Town origins within the facility itself.

The official name of the Community Centre will be confirmed through a separate process.

Conclusion:

In keeping with the origins of the project and recognizing strong community support, it is recommended that the new branch library at 495 Sherbourne Street should be officially named the St. James Town branch.

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.