

Bookmobile Schedule – 2007 - 2008

Date:	April 16, 2007
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

This report provides the 2006 annual review of bookmobile stops and the bookmobile schedule for 2007 - 2008. One new bookmobile stop will be added at Scarborough Village, and all other stops will remain as scheduled.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Two bookmobiles provide library service at 32 stops across the city in underserved areas and for target populations including young children, seniors and newcomers. Most of the stops are provided weekly while some are provided bi-weekly. The bookmobile service provides a flexible and timely response to changing community needs. As community demands shift, the scheduling and location of stops can be changed to provide service where the need is greatest.

Every year, there is a review of all bookmobile stops and how they are performing. In evaluating the changes and additions, priority is given to at-risk neighbourhoods. The performance of existing stops is also a component of the review.

In 2006, there were significant schedule changes that were implemented after a public consultation process for stops that were moved to different time slots or cancelled. Service was expanded from bi-weekly to weekly service at Martinway Plaza and Glamorgan. The scheduling of two stops was adjusted and changed at North Kipling and Kingston Road/Beechgrove. Three stops were cancelled and replaced with new ones at Morningside Heights, Oakridge Community Centre and Chetta Place. A map of the bookmobile stops is provided in Attachment 1.

The bookmobile is also used as an alternative service during temporary branch closures, depending on service needs at that particular location. In 2006, bookmobile service was provided at Morningside and Richview during the branch renovations.

COMMENTS

Overall, the bookmobile average headcount per stop was 37, and the average circulation per hour was 79. The performance benchmarks are a minimum of 15 people per stop and a minimum circulation per hour of 77, the average for neighbourhood libraries. The annual survey indicates how each bookmobile stop is performing. Based on the significant changes to the schedule in 2006 and the limited availability of timeslots and staffing resources, only one new stop will be introduced as a bi-weekly evening service at Scarborough Village, a location serving a priority neighbourhood. There has been considerable interest for this stop from community and service organizations, including the Neighbourhood Action Team that is composed of representatives from the City of Toronto, community agencies and service providers that provide neighbourhood services. All other bookmobile stops will remain as scheduled.

Bookmobile service is also being provided during the temporary closure of the Bloor / Gladstone Library. The current bookmobile schedule is provided in Attachment 2.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map of Bookmobile Stops – 2007 - 2008
Attachment 2: Bookmobile Schedule – 2007 - 2008