



**Eglinton Square Branch – Closure for Renovation and Expansion**

<b>Date:</b>	May 30, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Toronto Public Library Board
<b>From:</b>	City Librarian

**SUMMARY**

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Eglinton Square Branch will be closing for renovation and expansion in the summer of 2016. This report requests the approval for the closure of approximately seven months.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:**

1. approves the closure of the Eglinton Square Branch for approximately seven months; and
2. approves the plan for alternate service for the duration of the closure.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact beyond the approved 2016 operating and capital budgets.

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

**DECISION HISTORY**

The Eglinton Square Branch expansion and new lease agreement was approved by Toronto Public Library Board on June 22, 2015 and by City Council on August 31, 2015.

The Eglinton Square Branch renovation and expansion is part of the Library’s approved 2016 capital budget.

## **BACKGROUND**

Eglinton Square Branch is a busy neighbourhood branch, serving a current population of approximately 13,391 (2011 census data). The community served by the branch includes part of the Victoria Village Neighbourhood Improvement Area. The catchment area will also be impacted by the Eglinton Crosstown transit development. The Eglinton Square Branch is in the Segment 11 – Golden Mile portion of this development. The City has identified potential growth in the area of more than 12,600 residential units with an increase in population of 22,000-23,000 residents, and the need for improved library service capacity at this location has been identified.

The current branch is undersized for a neighbourhood library. In 2015, Eglinton Square was in Quartile 1, being the ninth busiest neighbourhood library in Toronto, in terms of visits. The size of the present facility is 4,716 square feet or 439 square meters, which falls well short of the current standard of 10,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. for neighbourhood branches.

At its meeting of April 28, 2014, the Board reviewed a report on the Eglinton Connects Planning Study, which noted that there is a need for an overall strategy to enhance access to library services, and facilities for area transit users and future opportunities related to the optimal locations for undersized branches in the Eglinton transportation corridor, including Eglinton Square, were identified.

Bentall Kennedy, the real estate management company for the Eglinton Square mall, approached the Library in February 2015 to determine the Library's interest in expanding the branch into two adjacent mall units. The proposed location provides excellent access and exposure at this busy location. Total space available allows the branch to expand from 4,716 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. and will enable the branch to respond to the strong demand for programs and services at this busy location.

At the June 22, 2015 meeting, the Toronto Public Library Board approved a new Eglinton Square Branch lease agreement for 10,000 sq. ft. at 1 Eglinton Square and the addition of a capital project to renovate the existing and new space.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

The renovation and expansion of the Eglinton Square Branch helps to achieve various strategic plan priorities and goals including:

- *Increase access to in branch services and spaces;*
- *Advance State of Good repair projects to provide welcoming, well-maintained and efficient public spaces;*
- *Create in-branch environments that connect neighbourhoods and communities, offering opportunities for partnerships, civic engagement and resident participation;*
- *Expanding access to technology and training.*

## COMMENTS

The Eglinton Square Branch will be closed for approximately seven months. The closure is expected to begin in June 2016. The mall owner requires approximately one month to prepare the site prior to commencement of library construction. It is anticipated that the award of tender for library construction will come forward for approval at the June Board meeting and library construction will start in July upon completion of work by the mall.

For the duration of the closure the following alternate service plan will be in effect:

- direct users to pick-up holds and use nearby branches in close proximity with easy TTC access or adequate public parking, including Kennedy/Eglinton, Maryvale, Victoria Village and Dawes Road branches;
- continue to provide outreach services such as kindergarten grade four outreach, Summer Reading Club, visits to schools, child care centres, after school programs, parent/child programs, and outreach to clients of community agencies;
- re-locate the adult book club program to Maryvale Branch;
- maintain contact with community groups and agencies identifying service needs and planning for services to be delivered at the re-opening of the branch;
- continue to participate in key community events;
- utilize social media throughout the closure to promote library services and keep users updated on the progress of construction.

Prior to the closure, an open house will be held at the branch to raise awareness of the project, upcoming closure and alternate service plans, answer questions, speak with customers on an individual basis and provide appropriate referrals for library services during the closure.

## CONTACT

Anne Bailey, Director, Branch Libraries; Tel. 416-397-5944;  
E-mail: [abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

## SIGNATURE

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Vickery Bowles  
City Librarian