

Perth/Dupont Branch Potential Capital Project

Date:	January 30, 2012
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Toronto Public Library Board about a potential project at the Perth/Dupont Branch. Toronto Public Library has been in discussions with the local community and councillor concerning their request for a potential project to expand or rebuild the Library's Perth/Dupont Branch. Library staff will continue to work with the local councillor and citizen committee, and will bring forward a further report as more information becomes available.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The costs of operating the current Perth/Dupont Branch are part of the 2012 operating budget and there is no financial impact in 2012. The costs associated with any future potential capital project at this location would be subject to review and approval if a project was brought forward for consideration.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Perth/Dupont Branch opened in 1977 and relocated to the present site in 1983. It serves a population of 21,733. The branch is located on property owned by the Library. While Perth/Dupont Branch, at 3,627 square feet is small and does not meet the current size requirements of 10,000 to 15,000 square feet for new neighbourhood branches, a major expansion or investment at the branch is not planned at this time. In the current budget environment, the Library is challenged to maintain its current network of branches.

As a small neighbourhood branch, Perth/Dupont offers a collection of basic reference materials, recreational reading, videos and CD's and multilingual materials. There are also computer workstations for Internet use and accessing other electronic resources through TPL's web site. In addition, the staff offer Ready for Reading programs for families with babies and young children, as well as March Break, Summer Reading Club,

Leading to Reading, and Homework Club programs for school-age children. The branch is open five days a week similar to other small neighbourhood branches. Use is low in comparison to other neighbourhood branches. Perth/Dupont Branch ranks at 76 out of 79 neighbourhood branches with a circulation of 79,683 items, 38,463 visits, 15,149 holds filled and 7,550 work-station uses in 2010. The neighbourhood is changing and several developments are anticipated in the surrounding area.

Residents of the Perth/Dupont community who require more in-depth resources than this branch can provide, have access to the Bloor/Gladstone District branch, which underwent a significant renovation and expansion in 2009. They also have access to the recently renovated Dufferin/St. Clair, Annette Street and St. Clair/Silverthorn branches, which are located nearby.

In 2002, Perth/Dupont underwent state of good repair upgrades with new flooring, a new HVAC system, painting and some new furniture and shelving. Other repairs are made as necessary through the Library's annual maintenance program. The addition of an elevator would be required to make the basement and second floor areas of the building accessible.

For these reasons, the Library has not identified Perth/Dupont for a major capital project in the current 2012 to 2021 plan. However, the local community and councillor have identified it as a priority.

In response to the local community, two options that could be accommodated at the current site were identified for improvements at Perth/Dupont.

The first option is to retrofit the existing facility, replacing the front façade of the building and adding a small addition at the rear to provide for an elevator and accessible washrooms. The capital cost of this option is approximately \$1 million.

The second option is to demolish the current facility and build a new two-storey branch of approximately 6,500 square feet at a capital cost of approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million.

Library staff attended a citizen meeting convened by the local councillor in June 2011 to discuss the Perth/Dupont Branch and options to improve services and facilities at this location. The citizens then formed a Junction Triangle Library Expansion Citizen Committee comprised of enthusiastic, persistent and dedicated volunteers. The committee convened a well-attended public meeting on August 16, 2011. Since that time, several meetings have been held. The committee is undertaking a public survey designed to determine what local citizens want in an expanded branch and to raise awareness. A public kickoff event was held on November 22, 2011 with writer Karen Von Hahn as the keynote speaker.

At the November 29, 2011 meeting, Council approved that benefits from a development on 830 Lansdowne Avenue be secured in Section 37 funds in the amount of \$1.1 million to be applied to reconstruction, expansion and/or necessary repairs for Perth/Dupont

Branch. The community is interested in supplementing that through a community fundraising campaign. The committee has been in touch with the TPL Foundation to request the Foundation to support the community fundraising efforts by acting as trustee for the funds raised.

COMMENTS

Improvements at Perth/Dupont Branch would be appreciated by the local community and would enhance service delivery at this branch. However, aside from required state of good repair improvements, no capital project is currently planned at this location due to the current budget constraints and relatively low use at this location.

Library staff will continue to work with the local councillor and citizen committee, and will bring forward a further report as more information becomes available.

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SIGNATURE

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