

REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Pond Mills Branch Facelift
Prepared By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, Margaret Wilkinson
Presented By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Purpose of Report:	For Receipt and Information Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be received by the Library Board.

Issue / Opportunity

The Pond Mills Branch Library was expanded and updated in year 1999. At that time, an Employment Resource Centre (ERC) was added. Since then the branch has had only minor and necessary facilities work done.

The current refurbishment was done on an extremely limited budget. To achieve the vision - staff were very creative. They reused furniture and equipment from Pond Mills and from storage. For example, the wood from the former ERC area enclosure was reused for the "PowerWall of popular materials and for ends of the magazine racks.

Background & Review

A refurbishment team, led by Anne Becker, did a fantastic job of making this a welcoming, comfortable, safe and accessible space. The branch space articulates the LPL Value Promise by inviting people to: Choose. Connect. Discover. Learn. Relax. Simplify. Patron comments on opening day, Tuesday March 6, 2007, were extremely positive. For example, a patron, using the Children's Area with her four year old son, commented that she really liked the warmth and comfort of the area and its new proximity to the program room where children's story hours are held. Another patron, looking at the "Power Wall" kept murmuring, "Wow". Staff also was thrilled by their new space.

The space plan for the branch will have a positive service impact on all service delivery streams: Reference, Reader's Advisory, and Referral; Collections and Lending, Technology, Programming and Community Outreach as we move forward with the system-wide implementation of the LPL Service Excellence Model. Grand Re-Opening Celebration

The Re-Opening Celebrations on Saturday, March 10th, 2007 were well attended by dignitaries, Staff (including some former Pond Mills Staff) and people from the community. Over 100 people joined the celebration and applauded the facelift! Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best spoke at the event, recognizing the city's commitment to libraries and to the huge benefits that libraries provide to Londoners. Paul Schmit from IBM also spoke as IBM donated the four computers for the IBM Homework Centre. Elizabeth Egleston, branch supervisor, gave a wonderful speech recognizing the significant improvements to the branch and their

commitment to the Pond Mills community. Anne Becker summarized the branch facelift activities and the value to Londoners, specifically to neighbourhoods served by the branch.

We were very pleased as we received significant media support from London Free Press, the Londoner, Channel A, Cixx FM and more.

See attached pictures of the new & improved Pond Mills Branch.

Team Recognition

Many people were involved in making this endeavor a success. Elizabeth Egleston (Supervisor, Pond Mills) and Arlene Thompson (Project Coordinator) provided kudos to the many staff who contributed to the success of this project. Please find attached, the report they put on LIBBI, the LPL Staff Internet.

Appendix 1 Pond Mills is Open!

Pond Mills Branch reopened this morning with a brand new look. We think of Pond Mills as the "green" branch. Terry Wilkes used his creative genius to design the new Service desk using "retired" pieces from the Central library. The "power wall" in DiscoverPlace has been created using recycled materials....and it is truly beautiful! The "carrel" may have been removed from the centre of the branch but pieces have been creatively used on the power wall & the magazine shelving. Other furniture & items have been given new life in the branch.

We can't give enough thanks to Terry Wilkes. He contributed greatly to the redesign of the branch and spent many long hours completing the work. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thanks also to the rest of the Facility Services team...Gerald, Stephen, Randy, Bob, Bill and Barry for being such a help. We sincerely appreciate all of your hard work. Thanks to Ted for the ways in which he helped out too.

Rob now is away enjoying his vacation after helping Blair, Tom and Douglas get the wiring installed & computers set up & operating. Where would we be without those computers! Thanks guys - always great working with you.

Thank you to Anne Becker for allowing the project to take place, for the encouragement & support ...and for picking out the furniture that matches perfectly!! The pieces are going to work so well for the staff.

Margaret Wilkinson & Lindsay Sage, thanks for coming out & helping. It was fun & extra hands are always useful. Thanks to Susanna Hubbard Krimmer & Nancy Ward for their visit... we appreciated the treats!

Lindsay, Betty, Linda & the signage committee have piloted the new style of signage at Pond Mills. It looks great & we'll soon know the public reaction.

Thanks to Julie Brandl for "rounding" up the chairs. Great job! Much appreciation also to Beth Whitney, Anna Dundas & Jennifer Ball for coming to visit ...and bringing the DVD lockboxes. Gotta get those DVDs out!

Thanks especially to the Pond Mills staff for remaining cheerful, energetic, supportive & enthusiastic through all the hard work. We had lots of "fun" taking those books off the shelves & then putting them back on when the shelf moved to its new location!

We think the "team" working on the Pond Mills project did a fantastic job. We invite everyone to drop by for a visit to see the "new green" Pond Mills! On Saturday the official reopening celebration will be held beginning at 1:00 pm. Come by and participate if it happens to be your day off.