



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: October 28, 2010

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Lambeth Branch Library: Capital Renewal Project
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Purpose of Report	For Receipt and Information Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received.

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

The London Public Library (LPL) **Capital Renewal Priorities Plan** of 2009 identified a number of needed capital projects for the Lambeth Branch Library. In our ongoing commitment to the community, and to ensure that Lambeth Branch remains relevant and inviting, the physical environment will be revamped and the space reorganized. In addition to refreshing the overall appearance of the Branch, the facelift will allow LPL to address some accessibility and ergonomic concerns and to reorganize staff workspace for improved workflow and efficiencies.

BACKGROUND

Lambeth Branch Library became part of the London Public Library system in 1993 during annexation. There has been a library in the community since 1924. The current library was opened in 1991 and is part of the Lambeth community centre and arena complex. It is 2,657sq.ft. The Library is able to use a meeting room in the Community Centre, thereby offering a variety of programs to patrons. Since the opening of the location in 1991, the Westminster Historical Society has maintained its local history collection in a small room located within the Branch.

The Branch is open 35 hours per week. Janet McCallum, a long time and much respected fixture in both community and library, has worked at the Lambeth Library since 1990.

Branch patrons are loyal – attendance continues to grow (33,248 in 2008; 37,683 in 2009); circulation also continues to climb (47,164 in 2008; 50,587 in 2009). Community

appreciation for library services is demonstrated during the annual Imagine! Campaign and in the number of donations made to the Branch by local service clubs. Funds are often directed towards the support of programming for children and youth.

Volunteers maintain several beautiful flower beds outside the Library. The most recent addition has been a children's garden.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In 2005-2006, the Lambeth Community Centre was expanded and renovated and significant changes made to the parking lot to improve access. At that time, due to funding levels, no work was done to improve the interior of the library. Thus, in order to keep the branch current the upcoming improvements will include:

- Fresh paint;
- New carpeting;
- Construction of a fireproof interior book chute room. Right now, a separate book drop box is located outside the Library. It presents ergonomic and accessibility issues for staff;
- Improved lending services area and new service desk;
- Re-organized shelving and collections (FADS compliant); and
- Enhanced children's play area.

The City of London has made available a meeting room in the Community Centre that can be used for storage while work is underway.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Funds from the London Public Library Branch Facility Capital Upgrade Account will be used to renovate the Lambeth Branch Library. Additional funds from the Imagine! Campaign and the annual Furniture and Equipment Budget will enable some modest furnishing updates.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The Lambeth Branch Library will be closed to the public for approximately three weeks to carry out the work. The Branch will close Thursday December 30, 2010 at 9:00 pm and will reopen on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

Details about service interruptions and alternatives will be available to the public well in advance. Special Lending procedures have been put in place to provide as little disruption to the patron as possible. Patrons will be encouraged to visit other library locations during the closure period.

CELEBRATION PARTY

A celebration for the community is planned for Saturday January 29, 2011 from 2-4 pm.