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From: Susanna Hubbard Krimmer [<mailto:susanna.krimmer@lpl.london.on.ca>]

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 8:08 AM

Dear Victoria White:

Thanks for your email regarding your concerns about Glanworth Branch Library and its being considered for closure as a possible action to be undertaken by the London Public Library (LPL) Board should it have to make cuts due to a reduction in its appropriation from the City of London. I apologize that you have not heard back from Josh Morgan, Library Board Chair, or Gloria Leckie, our Vice-Chair.

In the spirit of supporting the work that Council is undertaking to reduce costs of all civic departments, boards and commissions, the London Public Library Board held a special board meeting on January 13, 2011 for the purpose of re-examining its 2011 Operating Budget appropriation request to the City of London. The objective was to seek out cost avoidance or potential savings that might enable LPL to reduce its 2011 operating budget need. LPL is now also acting in response to the following Municipal Council direction of December 20, 2010, that: "All civic boards, commissions and agencies be requested to bring forward a list of salary and wage savings, vacancy management savings and potential cuts to services with 2011-2015 budget impacts and service implications".

The task facing the Library Board this year is a challenging one due to the fact that LPL has already implemented ongoing cost avoidance, cost containment and cost cutting measures in order to balance funding levels with the provision of relevant, accessible, high quality library service during a time of unprecedented community demand for library services. The Library Board is in the position of having to consider service cuts. At the same time, the Library recognizes the value that you and others in the Glanworth area place on library service in your community and this was part of the Board discussions on January 13th. Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the potential impact of this decision from the vantage point of a member of the community. I will be sure to share them with the Library Board.

The Library Board will be holding its regular meeting this Thursday and I will add your email to the formal Board meeting content. Your correspondence will be formally received by the Library Board for their consideration as they move through the budget process. Just so that you aware, as part of this, your letter would be added to the Library Board agenda and formal record of correspondence and would appear publicly at the Board meeting and on the LPL website. Please let me know if you have any concerns about this in terms of your personal privacy.

Thanks so much for getting in touch on such an important matter.

Regards, Susanna

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
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London Public Library
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>>> Victoria White <victoria.white@sympatico.ca> 1/23/2011 5:36 PM >>>

To: Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, Chief Executive Officer & Librarian (CEO)

Dear Ms. Krimmer,

I would like to express my concern about the possible closure of the Glanworth branch of the London Public Library.

I understand that a discussion of the Glanworth location has been tabled for the meeting of the Board on January 27. I think it is important that everyone involved in making a final decision about the branch's continued existence be made aware of the real cost of its closure. Once closed, this little branch will be lost to our already neglected and forgotten corner of London forever, and that will be a real shame. I have written directly to the Chair and the Vice Chair, but in the absence of any acknowledgement of that email, I am turning to you for advice and assistance.

In order to preserve the Glanworth library, the Board needs to first appreciate its uniqueness. The Glanworth library existed long before the city of London annexed this area. The library survived for decades under county and township jurisdiction. It is a tiny branch, true, and in the greater scheme of things it might seem that it could be easily dispensed with. I understand from a recent London Free Press article that the cost of keeping the branch operating is \$10,000 annually. This sum really is a mere droplet in the city's bucket.

But closing the little branch will have a cultural and psychological impact. As I said, we in the annexed rural south end of London have seen service after service disappear in the decade or so since London took over: we lost the local OPP station, the local fire station and the local post office. Everything we need now requires a drive in town, even when the weather makes commuting almost impossible.

Local commerce too has died, and so the community is dying. My personal belief is that the closure of the library will be the final nail in the coffin, not so much because thousands of people rely on this service every day, but rather because it has symbolic value. This will never be an issue about numbers. Mine's not a quantitative argument, because I cannot say to you that this branch will suddenly see a huge influx of users. Although, practically speaking, it does have real value, as it permits local residents to access the London Public Library with relative ease. That's the whole idea behind the word "branch" - is it not?

Quaint but still useful, the Glanworth Branch is one of the last connections we have to our local history; furthermore, it represents a viable contemporary connection to the new community to which we must now belong, London. I believe there is much value in keeping this library branch open. I think London as a whole will be the poorer if it loses this charming country library.

I hope that you will forward my concerns to the Board if possible, and I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about this, at your convenience of course.

Regards,

Victoria White
3739 Harry White Drive
London, Ontario