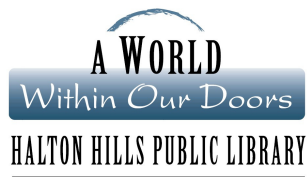




## **GEORGETOWN BRANCH/CULTURAL CENTRE PROJECT**

### ***Project Facts and Figures***

- The Halton Hills Public Library Board received Council funding approval for the Georgetown Branch Renovation/Expansion Project in September, 2008 in the amount of \$11.6 M. Cultural Centre alterations were also approved in the amount of \$1.9M, so that renewal of both spaces can be done concurrently.
- Alterations to the Cultural Centre will allow for a larger lobby space, expanded community meeting room, new washrooms and a new entry vestibule for the gallery.
- The existing Georgetown Branch will be extensively renovated and expanded to approximately 29,400 plus roughly half of the shared space of 10,000 square feet, for a total of 34,400 square feet. The total building will be 51,000 square feet. The facility will expand onto the property adjacent to the Library on Market Street, following the de-commissioning of the existing house.
- Council also approved increased staffing which will allow the Library to open Mondays, and to properly serve the added public space of approximately 22,400 square feet.
- The expansion will mean significantly more space for collections, children's programming, Internet stations, reading and quiet study areas, as well as larger and more functional areas shared with the Cultural Centre.
- De-commissioning of the 50 Market St. property is expected to begin in the early spring of 2011, with construction beginning in the late spring of 2011. The opening of the renewed Georgetown Branch is scheduled for the fall of 2012.
- The designers and builders will aim for LEED certification at the Silver level, which means that we will have a very 'green' building.
- Council approved the use of Holy Cross Church located at 224 Maple Avenue as a temporary site for the Georgetown Branch during the construction phase, which is estimated to be 15-18 months. A lease has now been signed.
- Council approved a feasibility study to investigate a capital campaign for the Library and Cultural Centre. The feasibility study has been delayed until further notice.



## GEORGETOWN BRANCH/CULTURAL CENTRE PROJECT

### *Other Frequently Asked Questions About the Project*

#### **a) Why do we need to renovate/expand the current Georgetown Branch?**

The *Facility/Site Study* done in October 2005, revealed many deficiencies in the existing Georgetown Branch. The most critical is the severe shortage of space. According to Ontario Public Library guidelines, the branch should be close to 22,000 square feet by 2005, or almost twice the current size. With the anticipated population growth, we will need 33,000 square feet of library space for the Georgetown area by 2021. This new space will allow us to house more material, offer a reasonable amount of quiet reading and study space, better meet the demand for Internet stations, and offer adequate space for our programs.

In addition to the space deficiency, the expansion will address ongoing problems with noise and issues such as poor wiring and ventilation.

We know that patrons are also supportive of this expansion. In several recent surveys, patrons have confirmed that they simply want more of what we are currently offering, e.g., bigger collections. At this time, we cannot add any more material; our shelves are jam-packed! We can only add to our collections if we have a larger facility.

#### **b) Is the Halton Hills Public Library busy enough to warrant a new, larger facility?**

Statistics from the last six years indicate that library use has increased dramatically in all areas including borrowing, questions asked and programs attended. Since 2001, circulation is up 50%, reference service is up 46%, children's program attendance is up 86% and in-house Internet usage is up 50%. Some of this increase is attributed to growth, but the year-on-year increase in circulation and other activities is considerably greater than the annual population increases. This suggests to us that new residents are discovering the many benefits of library service, and longer term residents are using and enjoying the library more.

We also know that the current Georgetown Branch cannot meet all of the community's needs. Not only is the space limited, users do not have enough room to work and read, and many larger programs cannot be accommodated. Experience in other communities demonstrates that when new libraries are provided, use increases significantly. We are confident this will be the case in Georgetown.

**c) Have planning studies been done to justify the expansion of the Georgetown Branch Library?**

This is not a new project. Detailed planning studies were prepared in 2005/2006 to determine the amount of library space required and the location. However, the need for additional library space in Georgetown was first identified in the early 1990s and confirmed by a planning study in 1996. The project has been in the Town's capital budget forecast since 1992, where an expansion of the Georgetown Branch was scheduled to begin in 1997.

**d) This project only deals with Georgetown, what is planned for the rest of the library system?**

**e) Why is the existing branch being expanded? What areas will be affected in this expansion/renovation?**

Previous planning studies in Halton Hills have always indicated a strong desire to maintain the Georgetown Branch at its existing location; however, this was difficult because there was not enough land to expand. In 2006, property immediately to the south of the Georgetown Branch became available and the Town purchased it for the expansion. The existing branch and space shared with the Cultural Centre will be extensively renovated and integrated with the new addition. Shared spaces with the Cultural Centre include the entrance, the lobby, the public washrooms and the loading dock area.

**f) What features will you be looking to add/change?**

The major changes for the Georgetown Branch Library include:

- increasing the amount of space in the lobby and entrance area and making the entrance more visible from the street
- creating a layout that is more accessible for wheelchair users and people with strollers
- having much more space for all collections while avoiding the use of very low or very high shelves
- incorporating environmentally friendly technology at every opportunity
- maximizing the natural light
- decreasing sound travel to quiet areas
- offering more seating and study area choices, including conversation spaces
- provide a larger, more sound proof children's programming area
- making it convenient for busy people to use the library (e.g., self-checkout and check-in, convenient drop box, etc.) Note: wireless (wifi) was introduced in 2007

- improving space for storing/displaying special materials (local history resources; art collections)
- providing more Internet stations
- having a floor plan/signage that makes it easy to find what you need
- installing good lighting throughout
- ensuring that the ‘look’ of both the outside and inside complement and integrate well with the historic features of the church and the surrounding area

The major changes for the Cultural Centre include:

- The gallery space will be made more effective by the creation of a vestibule area which will also have the ancillary benefit of showcasing more of the original stained glass windows of the old church
- The expanded lobby will allow for larger washrooms to reduce waiting times during intermission, a dedicated bar service area with a greater selection of items including wine, that may increase concessions sales over time, more space for patrons who are waiting for shows to begin or at intermission, and more lobby seating areas for cultural centre and library patrons
- The expansion will improve the functionality of the theatre by:
  - potentially increasing the seating with a balcony addition
  - increasing the amount of backstage space for dressing rooms and changing areas
  - increasing the amount of usable space on stage
  - preventing sound transfer from the library to the theatre, and vice versa
  - creating direct links from the stage to the lobby
  - increasing the amount of backstage storage space

#### **g) What about parking?**

An additional parking lot to be located on Edith St. near Mill St. appears in the Town’s capital forecast for 2012 in time for the completion of the renovation/expansion. This new lot is expected to accommodate approximately 75 new spots.

#### **h) What are the timelines?**

The following represent the key milestones in the project:

November 2008- October 2009	Design Development Phase/Final Design Approval
October 2010-February 2011	Construction Documents/Tendering Phase
March 2011-August 2012	Construction Phase
September 2012	Opening

**Note:** The Georgetown Library will be occupying a temporary site during the construction phase. The Cultural Centre (theatre and gallery) also will be closed during the same construction phase.

**h) How can we be spending this money at a time when the economy may not be healthy?**

With these difficult and trying economic times, it is certainly understandable that people are anxious. That said, it is precisely during downturns in our economy when strong public libraries are needed the most. It is the public library that people go to when they can no longer afford to buy books, subscribe to magazines and newspapers, rent their DVDs or connect to Internet service.

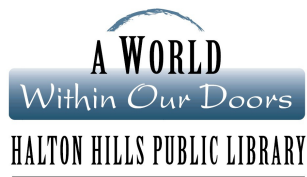
It is from the public library that people borrow (rather than buy) the latest bestseller, music CD or DVD. It is to the public library that parents bring their children for free, literacy-building programs. And it is the public library that people use to do a job search when they find themselves out of work or underemployed. Past downturns in the economy have proven that public libraries are used very heavily at such times and we certainly expect this to be true for the Halton Hills Public Library. We do think that a well-stocked and appropriately-sized public library will in fact be a tremendous asset to people who otherwise may not be able to afford many of the amenities that they have enjoyed in the past.

In times when discretionary income is not available, citizens seek out lower-cost alternatives for their leisure activities, such as community theatres. Performing arts groups -from the children's choir to the little theatre youth company- offer low-cost activities that educate and entertain, while providing important life skills. These groups need a place to perform their concerts and recitals, and the theatre and art gallery fulfill this need. The theatre offers entertainment to the local community at costs that are significantly lower than similar acts performed in nearby major centres. The art gallery also offers inexpensive showcase opportunities for local artists to display and possibly even sell their work. At the same time, the public is able to view the art for free.

**i) Where can I continue to get information on this project, and how can I submit my comments?**

The Director's Blog on the home page of the Library web site will keep the public informed of developments: [www.library.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.library.hhpl.on.ca). The blog format makes it easy to for citizens to post comments and share their ideas with others. People are also welcome to submit their thoughts and ideas through the comment form available in both branches.

Comments specific to the Cultural Centre can be directed to theatre staff, or can be posted to the Town of Halton Hills website at [www.haltonhills.ca](http://www.haltonhills.ca).



## GEORGETOWN BRANCH/CULTURAL CENTRE PROJECT

### *Project Governance*

The project is overseen by the Halton Hills Public Library Board, and the Town of Halton Hills, specifically the Recreation and Parks Department which is responsible for managing the Cultural Centre (Theatre and Gallery).

The Library Board has delegated the day-to-day monitoring and management of the project to the Georgetown Branch Planning Committee (GBPC). The Committee has voting members and non-voting members.

The voting membership includes:

- Three representatives from the Halton Hills Public Library Board (Jay Jackson- Board Chair; Sheila Taylor- Member-at-large and GBPC Chair; Sandy French- Member-at-large)
- Three representatives from the Library (Jane Diamanti- Director; Walter Lewis- Manager of Library Systems and Technical Services; Geoff Cannon- Manager of Library Public Services)
- Two representatives from the Recreation and Parks Department (Paul Stover- Manager of Facilities; Jamie Smith- Theatre Supervisor)
- One member of Council appointed by the Mayor (Councillor Moya Johnson)

The non-voting members consist of:

- The Project Manager (Mahendra Shah, The MMM Group)
- The Architects and the Architects' consultants (John Knox and Stephen Blood, Chamberlain Architect Services Limited)
- The Interior Designers (Ella Mamiche and Nihan Basak, ZAS Interiors Inc.)

The GBPC meets once a month.

The GBPC has a design sub-committee called the "Form Meets Function Committee" or FMFC. The FMFC consists mostly of staff representatives from the various service areas, as well as the Architects, the Project Manager, and when appropriate, the Interior Designers. The purpose of the FMFC is to assist the Project Manager, Architects and Interior Designers with the design process based on their knowledge of how the public and staff use specific spaces. The FMFC will provide input on the interior design concept, on the floor plans, on all decorative features, and on the technology.

The Chair of the FMFC (Jane Diamanti) reports to the GBPC. The FMFC meets once a month.

The Project Manager operates in the best interest of the clients, which are the Halton Hills Public Library Board and the Town of Halton Hills. The Project Manager is expected to ensure that the project is on time and on budget.

The Library Board is ultimately responsible for the effective management of the Library part of the project and spaces shared with the Cultural Centre. The Chair of the GBPC reports on the status of the project at the Library Board meetings. The Project Manager will also assist with reporting duties as required.

The Town of Halton Hills is responsible for the effective management of the Cultural Centre part of the project and spaces shared with the Library. The Project Manager will also assist with reporting duties as required.

The public will be consulted at key points in the design process. Together with those responsible for the project, we will ensure that the renewed Georgetown Branch and Cultural Centre is functional, accessible, attractive, and complementary to the historic features of the church.



## **GEORGETOWN BRANCH/CULTURAL CENTRE PROJECT**

### ***Project Vision: Library***

**The vision for the renovated/expanded Georgetown Branch begins with the customer.** Everything that we have done and will continue to do in a larger, better appointed branch will be directed by the needs of our customers. We are committed to monitoring these needs over time, and to adjusting as needs change. We will ensure that the new Georgetown Branch is flexible enough to accommodate changes in our social, economic, and technical environments.

**The renovated/expanded Georgetown Branch will serve as a successful and inspiring model of sustainability** through the design and operation of the building, and through the delivery of service. We will be a teaching tool for members of the community seeking greener alternatives.

**The new Georgetown Branch will support a diversity of needs.** In our goal to be inclusive, the building and the services within will be fully accessible, and will appeal to people of all ages, abilities and interests. The Library will be known for its ease of use, convenience and comfort, as well as the professional and attentive service; it will consistently exceed customer expectations.

**The Library will offer a range of service options** from self-help technology to staff-assisted service. The expanded collection will include traditional and state-of-the art resources. The Library will be viewed as an effective information gateway, where Library staff are the “ultimate search engines”. Special attention will be given to the following objectives:

- To develop strong literacy skills and foster a love of reading in children
- To provide a safe and engaging place for youth to learn and interact
- To recognize the needs of an aging population
- To support local small business operators through relevant and current information
- To supply popular materials in a timely manner and in a variety of formats
- To preserve and provide access to precious local history resources
- To showcase the best of new technology without compromising user-friendliness

**The Library will be a recognized destination,** a “third place” outside of home, work or school, where people can freely gather to relax, meet others, and exchange ideas. The increasing numbers of people using the Library will contribute to the vitality of the downtown area.

**Through careful stewardship by the Board and staff, the Library will demonstrate fiscal responsibility** and provide good value for the taxpayer’s dollar. The Library will continue to partner with complementary service providers such as the Recreation and Parks Department to maximize the funds available, and to capitalize on opportunities for collaboration on community development projects.

**The renovated/expanded Georgetown Branch will celebrate the importance of arts and culture to Halton Hills residents and will be a source of civic pride for many years to come.**

*Project Vision: Cultural Centre*

“To engage and entertain the community of Halton Hills by presenting diverse arts programs and providing venues to local artists.”

We will:

- **Enhance the cultural growth** of Halton Hills by presenting diverse works of exceptional art
- **Engage young people in the arts** by presenting age-appropriate performances and supporting artistic development programs
- **Encourage the growth and development of local artists** by providing quality venues for them to display or perform their work

**Both the visions for the Library and Cultural Centre support the Town’s Strategic Plan to 2031, which include the following goals:**

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Fostering a healthy community</li><li>➤ Preserving, protecting and enhancing our environment</li><li>➤ Preserving, protecting and promoting our distinctive history</li><li>➤ Achieving sustainable growth</li><li>➤ Providing sustainable infrastructure and services</li><li>➤ Providing strong leadership in effective and efficient municipal services</li></ul> |
|--|