

PORT CREDIT LIBRARY SET TO BECOME A "PAVILION IN THE PARK"



PHOTO BY COURTLAND SHAKESPEARE

The new design of the Port Credit Library was finally unveiled last Tuesday.

Along with the Mayor, the Commissioner of Community Services, Paul Mitcham, and members of the Port Credit Village Project, architect Bob Goyeche (RDH Architects) demonstrated a 3D walkthrough of the design and took questions from residents.

Following years of discussion and research, everyone agreed the library is situated in an iconic location for the town of Port Credit. It possessed, however, a certain "quirkiness" with its walls, layout and awkward vehicle connection to the surrounding roads.

The phrase used to describe the buildings new identity is "pavilion in the park" said Goyeche. Work next year will include renovation and a small addition.

The entry will be more grand with a gentle walkway and fewer barriers. They are going to remove some concrete and replace it with "glazing" (glass).

There will be an RFID (radio frequency identification) checkout so members will find it easier to go in and out of the library including access to a new outdoor patio on the river side.

We are removing "tons of wall" said Goyeche. They are also

BOB GOYECHÉ architect with RDH (left) presented the new design and took questions from everyone attending.

MAYOR MCCALLION (above right) was also on hand to talk about the opportunity funds made available, provided by the Federal Government.

going to dye or colour the brick to be a more unified colour.

The Texaco Room will actually get shrunk by 10 to 15 feet in order to facilitate the changes. The concrete "T" structure of the building will largely go unchanged. For that reason, no skylights will be possible. Adding a second story is also very unlikely at this point, too. It would require a lot more study and expense. The budget is currently in the neighbourhood of \$3 million.

The amount of shelf space was always considered a critical concern from the very beginning. The design and amount of space for books and materials will remain faithful to the requirements spelled out by the library administration.

The building was described as sound and solid with no concern over "sinking" or any structural issues. Although the surrounding soil may have sunk, the building has not.

Topics such as insulation and air-handling, however, are a high priority. The entire underside and roof require a much higher R value. This will result in substantial energy savings. In addition, the quality of glass proposed will be far better insulation than the rock walls currently in place.

Councillor Carmen Corbasson (Ward 1) said Clarkson Library will remain open while Lakeview, Port Credit, Lorne Park and Burnhamthorpe branches will all close for renovations and repairs.



THE LIBRARY'S NEW LOOK has a more open, "pavillion" look due to the removal of existing stone and brick. The old walls will be replaced with glass that will actually improve the level of insulation for the building.



MISSISSAUGA LEADERS ON HAND FOR ROLLOUT Paul Mitcham, Commissioner of Community Services for the City (left) hosted the closing remarks while Janis Alton (right), Port Credit Village Project Chair ran the meeting and introduced architect Bob Goyeche.

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In addition, the Mayor was also concerned that libraries should be open seven days a week including Sundays and there should be greater access, because the library is not just a place to work and do research, but also a central location for community meetings and socializing. "It's also a place for people to get access who can't afford a computer at home."

One of the main reasons why renovation, revision, redecorating and repair is possible is

due to the money coming to the community from the federal government. "We could not miss out on this opportunity," said Mayor McCallion.

There is one condition, however, and that is all work must be complete by March 2011. If that deadline is not hit, the community will have to pick up the total cost. So there is a very powerful incentive to complete all work within the time restrictions.

They expect the library to close early in March of 2010 and re-open later in the year.