

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Albert Branch Addition

The 1959 addition on the east side of the Albert Branch has become a serious issue. A couple of months ago, a mold problem was discovered in an exterior wall. The extent of the deterioration of the addition was discovered this week to be more serious. I should have more information by the time of the Board meeting.

Lottery House 2008

Included in the package is the information about the house in Wascana View chosen for the 2008 Library Home Lottery. I will be working out a contract with North Ridge in the coming days. I've driven out to the home neighbourhood and, while there remain a significant number of undeveloped lots, it is certainly shaping up to be a very nice street. With the description of the home in the proposal and the look of the surrounding area, I am confident that this will prove to be a good choice and the lottery will get a lot of attention.

Anniversary Committee

I propose that the committee be comprised of:

- two Managers
- two in-scope staff (one Union representative and one other)
- one Board member
- one representative from the community at large

I have not yet prepared a detailed mandate for the Committee but, in general, propose that it be primarily a Steering Committee that would:

- invite input and suggestions on specific major events for the Anniversary;
- review the submissions, add their own, and bring forward a recommendation for key activities spaced throughout the Anniversary period;
- review the final list of projects approved by the Board and make recommendations to Administration regarding resources needed for each project.

If this general direction is acceptable, I will proceed with preparation of a mandate document and would appreciate having the appointment of a Board member take place soon.

Library Budget

The Library has been asked about access to its budget recently and it is a repeat of questions from last year. I am taking this opportunity through the Library Director's Report to explain how the Library approaches the budget process in terms of the budget as a public document. I would like to know if the Board has any specific direction on changing the process for next year.

The Budget process for the Administration Group normally starts in October or November. The Board reviews early drafts and gives direction to Administration through meetings in January and February. *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*, section 21, requires that the Library set its requested mill rate on or before March 1st and provide immediately thereafter advance notice to the City Clerk or City Manager of the Library's requested mill rate for the year. In the same *Act*, section 22, the Library is required to submit its full application for the required monies (which has taken the form of a budget and discussion document) to City Council by March 15th. In recent years, Council has set the Library's public presentation of its budget for mid-April.

Until the City Council sets the Library's mill rate, the Library budget is a draft or proposed budget and has not been provided to members of the public. The draft of the proposed budget of the Library has been made public through its inclusion in the City Council's Meeting agenda and reports the week prior to the Library Board's public presentation to the Council. The Library's budget becomes final after a mill rate has been approved by City Council and is shortly thereafter posted on the Library's website and made available to the public.