



Rural library service update #2

May 1, 2018

There has been considerable progress since the first rural library service update early in the year. The Port Hope Public Library Board and staff are very excited by this opportunity to develop a service that is innovative and community based. The additional available space at the Canton site allows for the introduction of new services and programs that can serve both the rural and urban areas of the municipality.

The Library Board's vision for the new branch is to create an engaging and interactive community space focusing on innovative programs and services. As a complement to this new vision, the following goals have been established to direct the planning of library service.

1. To address the issue of poor access to high speed internet in parts of Port Hope
2. To target underserved segments of the population
3. To provide a meeting and gathering place
4. To incorporate new community partnerships

Library staff have been working for a number of weeks on an innovative service model which includes the development of creative programs, new community partnerships as well as a layout design and furnishings and equipment options for the allocated space on the main floor of the Canton building. Current hours of operation also are under review. The Library Board is considering options for the name of this new branch library. The process may include a public vote on a short list of nominated names.

In an effort to support the expanded use of this municipal facility by Port Hope Public Library, Council has approved funds for renovations and upgrades many of which are based on library requirements and planning recommendations. Library Board plans for fundraising initiatives that will assist with the purchase of required materials, equipment and furnishings are underway.

Building renovations will determine the timelines for the closing of the Garden Hill Branch and the opening of the new library space at the Canton site. Updates will be posted on the Port Hope Public Library website (www.porthopepubliclibrary.ca) and distributed as a paper report.

For more information contact Kathy Dennis, Library Board Chairperson (libraryboard@porthope.ca / 905-797-2228) or Margaret Scott, Library CEO (mScott@porthope.ca / 905-885-4712).