



MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 8, 2016

Library expansion to include new Seniors Centre

An expansion of the existing library in King City—including the relocation of the Seniors Centre—received a green light from council at a special meeting Tuesday night.

Alar Kongats, the project's architect, took council through a presentation of what the expansion could look like, including concept drawings showing a beautiful, modernized building.

"We're excited about improving our library services while, at the same time, offering a fantastic space for our seniors," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini. "While there is still a lot of work to be done, we're on our way to providing an amazing public space that will make the community proud."

Some of the goals and benefits of an updated and expanded library/seniors centre include bringing the service areas up to provincial standards—including accessibility standards—and building on the benefits of having the two centres together, such as reduced operational costs and shared resources.

"The expansion and renovation of the King City branch will provide residents with a 21st century library facility that functions as both a centre of innovation and a vibrant community hub," said King Township Public Library (KTPL) CEO Rona O'Banion. "The inclusion of the Seniors Centre in this project is a welcome addition that will have many benefits including operational efficiencies, sustainability features and the opportunity for joint programming initiatives."

O'Banion said library and municipal staff worked with the board of the current King City seniors centre while working on the initial design to address issues such as parking and adequate space for the seniors. After these discussions, the board of the seniors centre voted to relocate to the new library expansion.

Sylvia Pal, Chair of the KTPL Board, noted "The board is committed to ensuring that services remain relevant and reflect the growth and changing needs of the King community. This project began in 2006 with a community needs assessment which identified the future direction of programs and services, and the need for revitalized and updated facilities. The board is delighted that these goals are being realized with council's agreement to proceed with the King City expansion project. The library board is grateful to have a council that recognizes the value of library services, and on behalf of the entire board, I would like to thank them for their ongoing support."

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Lying in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, King Township is located within York Region, one of the fastest growing and diverse economies in Canada. More than 60 per cent of the Holland Marsh, also known as Ontario's salad bowl, lies within King Township. Though predominantly rural, most of King Township's 20,000 residents live in the communities of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Residents and visitors are drawn to King because of its rural lifestyle, village atmosphere and quality of life.

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The expansion would see the footprint of the existing building increase from 7,839 square feet to 20,000 square feet. The estimated cost of \$9.05 million will be financed through development charge reserves, debentures and tax-supported capital.

The next steps will include more consultation with both the Seniors Centre board and the public.

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ATTACHMENTS: CONCEPT DRAWINGS OF PROPOSED EXPANSION. PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE ONLY CONCEPT DRAWINGS AND MAY NOT DEPICT THE ACTUAL BUILDING ONCE COMPLETED.

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