

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: July 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Future of the Sixteen Mile Temporary Branch – July 18, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Sixteen Mile Temporary Library Branch Relocation report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- On May 1st, 2019, OPL opened the Sixteen Mile temporary branch to provide library services to the surrounding community in advance of the permanent library scheduled for 2028/29.
- On March 29, 2021, Town Council approved a report that advanced the construction of North Park including the permanent Sixteen Mile branch.
- In May 2021, it was identified that the Sixteen Mile branch would need to be re-located by August 2022 to accommodate work required for the park component of the North Park project and the branch was subsequently relocated in 2022 to the North Operations Center.
- Roads and Works and Parks and Open Space departments have identified the need for growth at the North Operations location and the current placement of the Sixteen Mile Branch is located within the growth area and needs to relocate by approx. 2027. In the interim, there is interest in using the Sixteen Mile branch by these two departments once it is vacated by OPL in 2025 as an interim measure.
- With Sixteen Mile Branch (permanent) targeted to open in Q3 2025, OPL staff are reviewing community needs identified through the draft Parks, Recreation and Library Master Plan and possible land options for the temporary facility.

- The current proposed operating model for the 2025 budget assumes that the current facility staff, collections, and equipment will be incorporated into the new branch when it opens.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, it was identified that the growth in North Oakville and demand for library and recreation services needed to be addressed in advance of the planned build of a new library branch and recreation center targeted for 2028/29. It was proposed that a temporary and modular branch be constructed at Sixteen Mile Sports Complex to address resident needs/demands in advance of the permanent facility. OPL partnered with Recreation and Culture to share the space and allow recreation programs to be offered. As such, the temporary branch offers fewer open hours than the rest of the system (excluding Clearview) to allow for recreation programming. The temporary space was design to be portable and able to move to a new location once the permanent branch opened.

The temporary branch opened May 1, 2019, on the grounds of the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex. The 5,000 sq. ft facility was well received by the community and allowed OPL and Recreation and Culture to support the surrounding community.

At the March 29, 2021, Council Meeting, a report from Mayor Burton that advanced the design and construction of the North Park Recreation Center and Library as well as advancing the construction of outdoor sports fields and park amenities was approved. In May 2021, it was identified that the temporary Sixteen Mile branch would need to be relocated from its current location to allow for the construction of the outdoor fields and facilities.

The branch was relocated to its new temporary home at North Operations Center and re-opened on October 3, 2022.

Roads and Works and Parks and Open Space departments have identified the need for growth at the North Operations location and the current placement of the Sixteen Mile Branch is located within the growth area and needs to relocate by approx. 2027. In the interim, there is interest in using the Sixteen Mile branch by these two departments once it is vacated in 2025 as an interim measure.

With the permanent Sixteen Mile Branch currently under construction and targeted for opening in Q3 2025, OPL is starting to review options for the future of the temporary facility.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

The initial concept for the temporary Sixteen Mile branch was to build a space that was large enough to meet the initial needs of a growing community in advance of a permanent full-service branch and able to be deconstructed and moved to another high-growth area once it is no longer needed within its current neighbourhood.

The facility has already moved once from Sixteen Mile Sports Complex to the North Operations Center at a cost of \$1,287,981.

OPL is currently working with the Realty Services team as part of their Land Acquisition / Disposition Strategy to identify possible locations within the town that would also align with the upcoming Parks, Recreation and Library Master plan. OPL is looking for a long-term location to contain costs and to acknowledge that every move shortens the life of the facility which was originally estimated at 30+ years.

Other factors being considering are timing related to the growth needs of the North Operations Center. The current location of the temporary facility interferes with future for the center, however there is interested from Roads and Works and Parks and Open Space to use the facility temporarily after Sixteen Mile (permanent) has opened and before its new location as been identified. There may be interest from the Town to permanently use the facility and this option will be explored along with continuing to use the space as a library at a new location.

OPL is targeting a recommendation for OPL Board consideration regarding the future location of the temporary facility in Q1 2025.

Prepared and submitted by:
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