

Redistribution of hours is 'good news story': CEO

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Library officials said the data collected further demonstrates Oakville's growing population in the north and a need for additional library service. With this data in mind, the Glen Abbey, Iroquois Ridge and Clearview branches will receive additional hours to help service the growing need, while the Central, Woodside and White

Oaks branches will offer the same or slightly reduced hours. According to the OPL website, the hours at the Central branch will stay the same with the exception of the children's floor, which will close at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. At the White Oaks branch, the hours will be the same Sunday (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.), but will

be reduced Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) as well as Friday and Saturday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). At Woodside branch, the hours will stay the same Sunday (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) as well as Friday and Saturday (9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), but will be reduced Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.).

At the Glen Abbey and Iroquois Ridge branches, Sunday hours will increase (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) along with Friday hours (9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) while Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday hours will remain the same.

At Clearview branch, hours will increase Monday (5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) during the school year while hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will remain the same (3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.).

Hours will also increase at Clearview on Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The branch will remain closed Sunday and Friday.

"This is a good news story," said library CEO Lynn Horlor. "This is a redistribution. The overall effect is we are actually adding hours within the system... We are reducing slightly some branch hours in the south, but those are based on the actual footfall. For example, we know that between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. on our children's floor there's not a lot of children."

Horlor noted in those circumstances it just makes sense to close earlier and shift the staffing and resources to the north branches where there

“ This is a good news story. This is a redistribution. The overall effect is we are actually adding hours within the system... The library is actually open 24/7 on the website. ”

Lynn Horlor,
CEO, Oakville Public Library/Town of Oakville

is a higher demand. She also pointed out that because of these changes the OPL would forgo the usual reduction in hours during the summer.

"The other thing that I think we need to think about is that the library can now be a virtual library, too," said Horlor.

"The library is actually open 24/7 on the website. People can download books and we do have a large number of customers using that."

Library staff noted the increased hours at the northern branches relates back to the library's goal to serve all community residents purposefully as outlined in its current Strategic Plan.

They noted that by increasing these hours, library visitors would be able to stay at the branches and utilize library services and resources longer.

The increased hours also gives library staff the ability to run more programs at those branches.

For more information, visit www.opl.on.ca/blog/home/newbranchhours/.

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