

Public Library under wraps

By Marie-Lauren Gregoire

OHSWEKEN – Six Nations Public Library closed last week for renovations to the second floor of the Chiefswood Road building which will accommodate ten additional computers. The library is transforming the vacant second floor into a computer room, study hall and meeting room. Renovations are extensive and will take 8-10 weeks to complete during which time the library will be closed to the public.

Diana Doxtdator, Librarian, clarified the temporary library closure, "We're looking at 8-10 weeks and we're hoping it won't take any longer." The first floor of the library accommodates six computers but the library does not have adequate space on that floor for any more computers and the library will be receiving ten additional computers. "Our original intention for upstairs was a computer room. We've got ten more computers coming and no where to put them down here," explained Doxtdator. The library has the task of transforming a home into a library so the renovations will be extensive.

"This was originally built as a doctor's residence since the Lady Wellington Hospital. The challenge is to renovate a building that was built

into a house into an institution," said Doxtdator. Reconstruction will remove the walls of the upstairs bedrooms and the new wiring, upgraded hydro and new bathroom facilities will make a library study area. "We're doing more than cosmetic renovations," exclaimed Doxtdator. The renovation crew will have to gut the upstairs and tear down walls to affect this transformation as it requires more than paint and wallpaper.

The library board decided to close the library during the extensive renovations rather than keeping it open, even minimally, because of public safety concerns. "Based on health and safety with all the renovations going on upstairs, they're completely gutting the 2nd floor and with all the dust and the hydro having to be cut off... it was just simpler to close the library," explained

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