

Fergus Library Design Unveiled



Concept rendering, View from Grand River

New Fergus library concept revealed September 19, 2012

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Members of the Wellington County Library Board got their first look at the interior layout for the new Fergus library branch last week. +VG Architect, Paul Sapounzi presented the company's plans following a lengthy discussion on the fate of the Aboyne library.

With the committee recommending now that the Aboyne branch stay open, there could be changes to the Fergus branch renovation, board members heard. Money will need to be spent to repair the Aboyne branch and refurbish it as a library – assuming it remains open past 2014 – and that money will affect the budget for the Fergus renovation. How exactly wasn't known

– it's something that will have to be worked out in the future, County Warden Chris White told board member Jennifer Dixon when she asked for specifics.

Because of that financial uncertainty, the library board deferred the discussion of the Fergus renovation to the next board meeting in October after Sapounzi's presentation. "I want to find out why we're linking these two projects (Fergus and Aboyne)," board member Brad Whitcombe said of holding off on the Fergus decision. "Let's celebrate the Fergus project – let's spend the money we've already budgeted to build that project." What Sapounzi revealed is the design for a 15,000 square foot library –



Concept rendering. View from rear

to be built in a large L connected to the current Fergus Carnegie library in downtown Fergus, extending back nearly to the river.

“The whole building will become a camera for appreciating the river and market area,” Sapounzi said of the design, which extends almost to the edge of the river and integrates with the Fergus BIA and Centre Wellington’s riverwalk landscaping plans.

The design is built to the county’s standard of accessibility – which Sapounzi pointed out is higher than provincial standards. The children’s area will be fully integrated into the book stacks, he said, answering one of the many questions posed about the design by delegations earlier in the meeting.

It will be a first-class resource, he said. “It becomes a big wonderful living room for enjoying your friends, family and the community.” There are two levels – the upper floor at about the level of the current adult library – will consist of a reading lounge,

study area, circulation and information desks, and a large section for the library collection. The lower level will include offices, machinery space, storage and book processing areas, and as it stands now, offices for the library administration staff currently located at Aboyne. They will take up about 900 square feet – slightly less space than they use at the Aboyne branch, Sapounzi said.

The lower level will also hold a small community meeting room that’s become standard in the new libraries the county has built, he said. Like the small community room at the Elora branch, it’s a space that could be used for programming, for the community, or for groups of students visiting the library.

There will be two entrances. At the front, the concrete steps and patio will come off the Carnegie building and a new, street-level entrance will be built that’s about halfway between the upper and lower floors. The fully accessible side entrance on the



Concept rendering. Side entrance

east wall will be at parking-lot level and lead to a large central entrance area where elevators or stairs will take people to the book floor.

Paul Sapounzi said he expects the interior to use a lot of wood and natural materials and have lots of visibility out to the historical downtown landscape around the building.

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Concept rendering. Side Elevation