

James Bay Library Branch Opportunity: Resident Opinions sought

The Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) has launched a survey and asks residents to provide input as to the type of library would be best for James Bay.

Background:

- The **promises of the Victoria Accord** have been rewritten in a Master Development Agreement (MDA) that identifies **700 square meters (about 7,500 sq ft)** as being made available for a library.
- The JBNA resident Victoria Accord survey done in 2013 showed great support for a multi-purpose/library facility as being the desired amenity of Capital Park.

The time is now:

- Facility space: Each municipality provides space (leased or owned by municipality) for any GVPL branch while the GVPL provides funding for set-up and operating. Partner municipalities in the GVPL contribute finances to GVPL.
- The City of Victoria must pay “market rates” for Capital Park facility space.
- Upon completion of Capital Park, “new” property tax revenue from 235,000 sq ft of office space, 155,000 sq ft of residential space, and 17,000 sq ft of retail space will more than offset the City’s costs for Library space.
- The City has a limited time to take-up the offer to lease the premises. Once the option time expires, the developer may lease the space to a third party. The City has the opportunity, in years ahead, to request the space. Such a request must be at least **2 years before space is desired** and may be filled **15 years later as third party leases expire**.
- The City and GVPL long-term plans envision the main Library (Currently on Broughton) relocating north, near or at Centennial Square.

The GVPL survey is found at: www.gvpl.ca/jamesbay



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