

Kitchener library upgrade plans on display

RECORD STAFF

KITCHENER — The public will get a chance to look at refined plans for the new Kitchener Public Library upgrades, underground parking and civic square during a public information session next week.

The drop-in session — which will be staffed by representatives from the city, the library and the project consultant — is scheduled for Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the central library's Hamblin Room.

Work should start in early fall on the new three-storey underground parking structure. The city wanted to have one more public session to make sure anyone who will be impacted by the work can have their questions answered, said John McBride, the city's director of transportation planning.

Parking behind the library will be impacted as will some of the lot used by the Waterloo Regional Police and a portion of one of the Centre in the Square lots during the work. During the second phase of construction, officials expect parking will be available in the new portion of the garage.

The information session will include display boards outlining the work and concepts of the finished design. McBride said it will include some of the information presented during two public meetings last year along with refined plans for the project.

Landscaping plans for the new civic green space — which will be created over top of the parking garage on space that is now a paved lot — will also be available, as will details of all the trees to be removed for the construction.

The library renovation is set to begin alongside the second phase of the parking garage construction next spring. All work in both phases is expected to be complete in January 2013.