

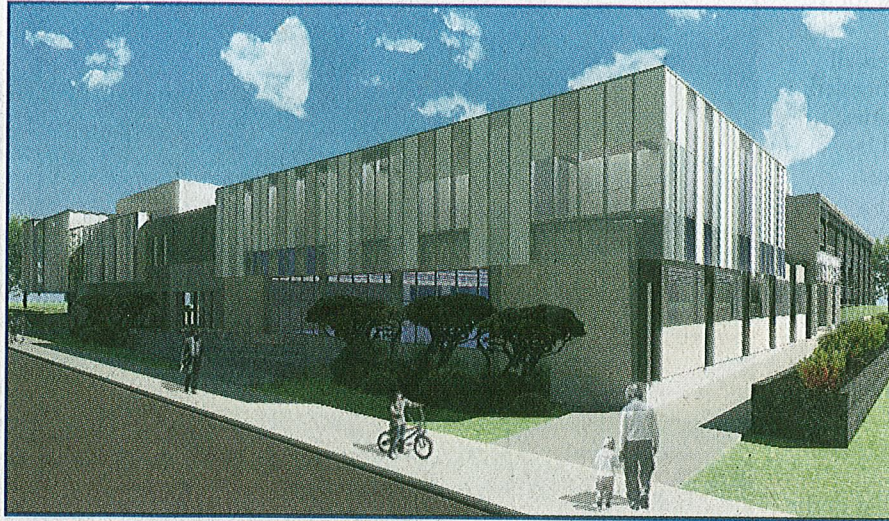
Groundbreaking Sept. 11 to kick off library expansion and parking garage

A renovation and expansion of the main branch of the Kitchener Public Library will help make the building more accessible, while also allowing it to expand its considerable collection of books.

The work is scheduled to begin later this fall and will see the complete renovation of all three floors of the existing main library, located at 85 Queen Street North, along with the construction of a new 25,000-square-foot addition to the rear of the building.

The project will also include the construction of a 412-space, three-level underground parking garage to better accommodate parking needs for the library and Civic District partners, such as the Region of Waterloo headquarters, the Centre in the Square, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, the Registry Theatre and the new provincial courthouse.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at noon on the library's front lawn, rain or shine. Mayor Carl Zehr, members of Kitchener council and the library board will be in attendance. "After years of planning, it's exciting for all of us to know that work will



Rendering of Kitchener Public Library from Ahrens Street

begin soon on our central library renovation and expansion project," said Sonia Lewis, chief executive officer of Kitchener Public Library. "Our groundbreaking ceremony will also give us an opportunity to thank the many hard-working supporters, partners, staff, and volunteers who helped us reach this important milestone."

The first phase of the project will

include the construction of the underground parking garage behind the library, followed by the construction of the new two-storey library addition. The parking garage is expected to be completed in May 2012, while the library expansion and renovation is expected to be completed by 2013.

The garage will be accessible from Queen Street and Margaret and Otto streets. There will be a controlled pedestrian connection between this garage and the Region of Waterloo headquarters parking garage, but

automobiles won't be able to cross over.

The main library branch will remain open for business throughout the construction period. Once the first phase is complete, ongoing library service will be provided from the new addition while renovations are made to the original portion of the library during phase two of the construction project.

The current main library is nearly 50 years old and was originally built to serve a population of about 70,000 people. Today, the main library not only serves a growing Kitchener population of more than 200,000 people, but also provides collection and administrative support to four community libraries, with a fifth community library anticipated to be built in 2016.

The renovated and expanded central library will provide much-needed space for current collections and services, and accommodate future growth.

In keeping with ever-increasing environmental concerns, the new building will also be constructed to the highest standards of energy efficiency.

For more information about the renovation and expansion project, please visit the library's project website at www.kpl.org/central