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“New Port Dover Library Design Unveiled”

By BARBARA SIMPSON, SIMCOE REFORMER

A sleek new library branch featuring a vestibule of coloured glass and an open concept design is in the works for Port Dover. Norfolk council had a look at an architectural rendering of the \$1.4 million project at its committee session last night. The six-month construction process is expected to start in 2012.

The design of the new branch works “with the grain” of the existing Port Dover Medical Centre where it will be housed, said Paul Sapounzi, of +VG Architects in a presentation to council. The only addition to the building will be the new vestibule. The whimsical design of the front entranceway is comprised of translucent glass



Interior rendering

with coloured film on the inside. It was inspired by Sapounzi’s summertime trips to Long Point.

“I envisioned the water, clouds and sunsets -- that was the perspective I wanted to take,” he said.

He also wanted the library to appear “magical looking” for children in an age where libraries are struggling in kid popularity.

“I think you’ve done a wonderful design,” said Simcoe Councilior Peter Black. “Good job.”

The split-level layout is also designed for efficiency. The open



Exterior rendering

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“New Port Dover library design unveiled” continued

concept will allow it to be operated with minimal staff members. “One single person can essentially control the entire floor plate from that circulation desk,” Sapounzi said.

Before construction can begin, the Norfolk County Public Library must wait for a domino effect to happen in Port Dover. Doctors must be moved into their new medical centre before the library can take possession.

“I do envision that they (doctors) will be moving into the new medical centre in 2012 unless they run into unforeseen hurdles along the way,” said Kevin Lichach, the county’s general manager of



Exterior rendering

community services. A decision has yet to be made about the fate of the current Port Dover library building. If it is deemed surplus, it could be put on the market.

+VG Architects is a full-service architectural firm offering new design, expansions and heritage restorations for cultural, educational, municipal, justice, healthcare, residential and recreational facilities. Our staff of 40 operates in four offices in Ontario, in Brantford, Cambridge, London and Toronto.

See www.plusvg.com for more information.



Interior rendering