

# *UTM plans new library with SuperBuild funds*

By JOHN STEWART  
Staff

They ran out of space for the book collection at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) library in 1986.

Sixty per cent of the current space, including the book shelves, computer lab and washrooms aren't accessible to the disabled.

On top of that, study space is inadequate, since a fifth of it had to be removed to add more books.

While information technology has changed students' study habits, the space devoted to it is, "cramped or non-existent, with no room for flexibility and expansion."

According to the library's 2002 annual

report, "the library was built for another time. It is outmoded. It does not adequately serve our students or faculty. It's no longer a credit to this institution."

All of which means that the prospect of a new, modern \$30 million-plus "academic learning centre" brings broad smiles to the faces of library and campus administrators.

The new library moved from the planning stage to the implementation stage recently when the Ontario government announced the latest phase in its SuperBuild capital financing program.

The University of Toronto got the lion's share of the \$180 million to create new post-secondary student spaces across Ontario, and UTM got the biggest slice of that \$55.5 million.

The money will go to build the long-awaited library.

Sometime in 2006, the new learning centre should be open on what is now parking lot number 3, just west of the Communication Culture and Information Technology (CCIT)

The new building, and the renovation of the space it now occupies in the South Building, will help the school reach its ambitious plans to nearly double in enrollment.

"In our new building, we will be accentuating a people place over a collections space," says chief librarian Mary Ann Mavrinac, who says the new structure, though not designed yet, will be bright and airy in comparison to the cramped existing quarters with its low ceilings.

Tracking devices show that more than 100,000 people pass through the library monthly.

"The students tell us this is where they go to study. People want to learn together. We serve a campus with diverse community values," notes Mavrinac. "The library is a safe and secure place."

UTM will raise \$5 million as its contribution towards the project.

Meanwhile, the existing library space will be used to provide new faculty offices, new classrooms, laboratories and a one-stop student-service plaza.

The other main candidate for SuperBuild funding at UTM — a new science building — is still planned for the future.