

Nancy Marshall

From: Samuel Getachew [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 6:14 PM
To: Nancy Marshall
Subject: RE: Library Board - June 22nd.

A request for consideration to have Scarborough Civic Centre Library named as the Daniel Grafton Hill Library.

The presentation will be made by myself, Samuel Getachew and Rosemary Sadlier, of the Ontario Black History Society.

We believe, Daniel Hill is a worthy candidate for such an honor. An immigrant from the United States, and a proud resident of Scarborough until his timely death, he completed his PHD from the University of Toronto. He would became a noted social activist, scholar and advocate for better ideals all his life. A proud Canadian citizen, he wrote the much celebrated book *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* in 1980.

The one-time professor of sociology, he was also the founding director and later chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. He would also serve as Ontario's Ombudsman and advisor to government institutions on multiculturalism.

He became involved with the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, the North York Social Planning Council and the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation, all in senior roles. Recognized with the Order of Ontario and with the Order of Canada, Hill operated a noted human rights consulting firm, started the Ontario Black History Society, donated resources to countless charities, at home and abroad, and became a supporter of Canadian arts.

His children -- Lawrence and Dan Hill -- would become noted authors and artists. Lawrence would go on and write the celebrated books *The Book of Negroes*, *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada* and his upcoming, *The Illegal*. Dan would record chart-topping songs such as "Sometimes When We Touch" and "Can't We Try." He would also earn a Grammy for his work with Celine Dion.

In 1991, the family donated much of their personal documents to the Archives of Ontario.

We believe, he would be a noted proud Torontonian, worth celebrating.