

Renaming the Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre

Date:	May 19, 2009
To:	Naming Committee
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

At its March 23, 2009 meeting, the Library Board referred to the Naming Committee a letter from Jean Orpwood requesting the renaming of the *Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre* located on the concourse level of the North York Central Library (Attachment 1). The renamed space would be the *Margaret Canning and Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre*.

When retiring as Chief Librarian of North York Public Library in 1988, the adult literacy offices at the North York Central Library were named after Jean Orpwood to recognize her leadership and support for the development of adult literacy services throughout North York Public Library. The request for renaming currently under consideration is to also recognize Margaret Canning's contributions to the development of these adult literacy services.

The proposal meets *Naming Policy* criteria for naming rooms after individuals. The renaming of the adult literacy offices located at North York Central Library would acknowledge the significant contributions Margaret Canning and Jean Orpwood made in the development of adult literacy services in Toronto's libraries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Naming Committee:

1. adopts the renaming of the adult literacy offices at the North York Central Library as the *Margaret Canning and Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre*, for consideration at the June 15, 2009 Library Board meeting;
2. pending the Library Board's approval of the renaming, articles are written for *@tpl* and *Shelf Life* to commemorate the renaming of the North York Central Library Adult Literacy space; and
3. the unveiling of the new signage commemorating the space be arranged.

Implementation Points

Pending Library Board approval, timing of the unveiling of the new signage will be determined in consultation with Jean Orpwood.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The *Naming Policy* requests details on cost when naming is contemplated without a gift. Replacement of interior signage is estimated at \$200. The unveiling of the new signage would be arranged; refreshments will cost \$75. The total cost estimate for the renaming is \$275.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed the Financial Impact Statement and is in agreement with it.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

There are precedents for naming rooms after library staff members. The Library's *Naming Policy* allows for the naming of rooms based on three priorities: the name of the branch where the room is located together with its function; after an individual who has made a contribution to the Library or City; and former Board or staff members who have made *an exceptional contribution* and two years have passed since the individual's death or separation from the Library. At its December 15, 2008 meeting, the Library Board approved the naming of a room at the Goldhawk Park Branch after Peter Bassnett.

DECISION HISTORY

At its March 23, 2009 meeting, the Library Board received a communication regarding renaming the *Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre*. The communication was referred to the Naming Committee for consideration.

COMMENTS

The Library's *Naming Policy* allows for the naming of rooms after staff members who have made *an exceptional contribution to Toronto Public Library* provided that at least two years have passed since the individual's death or their separation from the Library. Renaming the adult literacy offices located on the concourse level of the North York Central Library to include Margaret Canning meets these criteria. The proposed renaming is being presented to the Naming Committee for recommendation to the Library Board. In considering the renaming, the Naming Committee might consider future requests the Board may receive to honour former employees and overall benefits for the Library.

Adult literacy services at North York Public Library began with the significant contributions of Margaret Canning and Jean Orpwood. Margaret Canning's life and contributions are documented in a Briefing Note (Attachment 2).

As Area Branch Head at the York Woods branch, Margaret Canning worked to develop an adult literacy program in 1978 in response to a demonstrated community need. As Manager of Special Community Services in the 1980s, she oversaw the program expansion with the establishment of three additional Adult Literacy offices.

During the planning for North York Central Library, she worked with the architects to design the dedicated space where the adult literacy program continues to operate. Features of the space have provided a model for subsequent literacy offices. As a result of Margaret Canning's and Jean Orpwood's dedication, the program continued to expand throughout the 1980's and 1990's.

Renaming the adult literacy offices at North York Central Library acknowledges Margaret Canning's and Jean Orpwood's founding role and significant contributions to the adult literacy program. The proposed name, the *Margaret Canning and Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre* honours their contributions.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Letter to Matthew Church from Jean Orpwood dated March 5, 2009
Attachment 2: Briefing Note on Margaret Alice Canning