

**Councillor Adam Vaughan 魏德方**

Toronto City Council  
Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20

Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2008

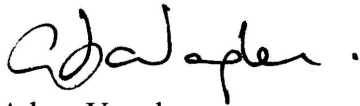
Dear Board Members,

It has been two years since the esteemed citizen, writer and civic activist Jane Jacobs passed away. To date the city has not found a way to honour the extraordinary contribution Jane Jacobs made to so many facets of Toronto. City builder, community leader, urban philosopher, a great chronicler of our municipal life, Jacobs can be remembered in many ways. A common element in all her endeavors was meticulous, and at times mischievous, research. It formed the foundation for speeches, books, articles, anecdotes and the wisdom she so generously dispensed to friends, politicians and even opponents of her ideas.

What most of her friends and family know, and what many of this city's librarians can attest to, is that Toronto's Public Library system was indispensable to Jane Jacobs. Largely self educated, Jacobs once said that here formal education more or less ended after grade three. She credited the books she read as her biggest influences. "I think I mostly taught myself by reading secretly with a book hidden underneath the desk." She credits the Library in her hometown of Scranton with being the door that led to the world outside. She may have left that small coal mining town for New York and then later Toronto, but she never left the Library.

As a fitting tribute to one of this city's greatest writers and most eloquent defenders of civic space and municipal institutions, The time has come to honour her life's work My naming Toronto's Reference Library after this international acclaimed and celebrated citizen of Toronto.

Sincerely,



Adam Vaughan

