

## Chair, TPL Board chair - The Jane Jacobs Reference Library

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**From:** "Linda Weichel"  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 9, 2009 6:18 pm  
**Subject:** The Jane Jacobs Reference Library

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Hello, I would like to add my name to the list of people supporting a renaming of the reference library to include Jane Jacobs.

She was such an illuminating force in increasing our urban literacy that it would be highly fitting to have her name alongside the Reference Library.

Regards,

Linda Weichel

## Nancy Marshall - support to rename Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs

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**From:** Matthew Blackett  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 12, 2009 5:06 pm  
**Subject:** support to rename Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs  
**CC:** Adam Vaughan <Councillor\_Vaughan@toronto.ca>, Dale Duncan <dduncan@toronto.ca>

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Dear Ms Kathy Gallagher Ross,

I am writing in support of honouring the late Jane Jacobs by renaming the Toronto Reference Library in her memory. She served Toronto well over the 40 years she lived here and was an exceptional example of what a local resident can do to shape her own city. Her prolific writing career coupled with her intense research within Toronto's libraries convinces me that renaming the library in her honour would be a grand yet appropriate gesture. The Reference Library is a local institution and so was Ms. Jacobs. I highly encourage you to consider the name change.

**Matthew Blackett**  
publisher & creative director  
Spacing Media

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215 Spadina Ave., Suite 412  
Toronto ON M5T 5C7

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**2008 Canadian Small Magazine of the Year (CSME)**  
**2007 Canadian Small Magazine of the Year (CSME)**

**2008 National Magazine Award winner (Silver)**  
**2006 National Magazine Award winner (Gold)**

**2008 Editor of the Year (CSME)**  
**2007 Editor of the Year (CSME)**

**From:** "David Gurin"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 12, 2009 5:22:42 pm  
**Subject:** Jane Jacobs Library

Dear Ms. Kathy Gallagher Ross:

I just heard about the proposal to name the reference library for Jane Jacobs. What a splendid idea!

I first met Jane when I was a graduate student at Harvard University in 1962. It was shortly after "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" was published. She came up to speak to students and when I asked if I could speak further with her she invited me to her home in New York. We were friends from then on and I can think of no more appropriate tribute than naming the library after her. She loved books, learned from books, and was constantly doing research both through books and through her famous common sense observations; she mixed the two, and that was part of her genius. I was the last planning commissioner for Metro Toronto and Jane was a big influence on me as on so many others in city planning and other endeavors.

I would feel very proud to have the reference library in my city named for Jane Jacobs.

Sincerely,

David Gurin

**From:** "Mary Rowe"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 12, 2009 7:12:12 pm  
**Subject:** Naming Metro Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs Attn Kathy Gallagher Ross

Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

I am writing to strongly support the proposal that the Reference library be renamed to pay tribute to Jane Jacobs.

Jacobs was a tireless advocate of public libraries, and the critical functions they play in their local and regional communities. She was very much aware of the evolving uses of libraries, reflecting the needs of that time. Plus of course she was an author whose work proudly resides within the collections of libraries worldwide. Jacobs was fundamentally about her readers informing themselves, and she saw her books as a means of provoking, motivating and supporting self-directed learning. What better name to associate with your magnificent facility, than one of the great minds of the twentieth century, who, by choice, resided in Toronto, and used books as her primary means of learning, and communication.

I urge you to pursue this terrific idea. I knew Jane Jacobs well, and although she shunned what she perceived as unearned rewards and recognition (as you probably know she turned down every honorary degree offered her) she would always support endeavours that got people reading. So this gesture might even have been acceptable to her!

She loved Toronto, admired the remarkable achievements of the TPLB (the quality of its collections, its circulation rate, its commitment to ensuring its facilities were assets to their host communities etc.) and I think this would be a wonderful tribute to the rich legacy she has left readers around the world.

I hope you will do this.

Mary Rowe

**From:** Donald Alexander  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 12, 2009 9:38:18 pm  
**Subject:** Jane Jacobs Library

To:

Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross

I am writing to encourage you to name the Toronto Reference Library to recognize and pay tribute to Jane Jacobs.

I produced the educational video "Jane Jacobs, Urban Wisdom" with interviews conducted over the course of several years. I can attest to her respect for the key role libraries play in our community vitality.

I remember fondly the conversations we had about books and their readers. She considered herself, above-all, a non-fiction writer. She described --with wonder-- the communication of writer with reader. She admired and encouraged young people. Jane adopted a didactic dialogue form in two of her books. She described the writing of the essay form as discovery during the writing process.

Here we have a writer, respected for her ideas and books about how cities and economies work. It will be a fitting tribute to honour Jane Jacobs. It will also be a fitting honour to link Toronto and its libraries with the world-changing ideas engendered by Ms Jacobs' writing.

I urge you to adopt the recent suggestion of naming the Toronto Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs.

Don Alexander

**From:** "Beatrice Traub-Werner"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 6:48:02 am  
**Subject:** Re: Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I read Councillor Vaughan's letter, forwarded to me by my friend, requesting support to name our reference library the Jane Jacobs Reference Library of Toronto. I think it is a fabulous idea and wholeheartedly support it. Would you please advise/forward this email to Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair of the library board?

Many thanks - this is a fitting tribute to one who has done so much for our city and who fully deserves to be honoured and remembered in this way by future generations.

Warm regards,

Beatrice Traub-Werner

**From:** Catherine Nasmith  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 7:38:48 am  
**Subject:** Jane Jacobs Library

Dear Ms. Marshall,

I have received communication about the idea to rename the Toronto Reference Library after Jane Jacobs. It is a terrific tribute to both the library and its use by Ms. Jacobs and her name at the library would no doubt boost it's "cool" factor.

Catherine Nasmith Architect

**From:** <p.harris  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 10:07:52 am  
**Subject:** Jane Jacobs & Toronto Reference Library

Dear Ms. Ross;

I am writing to add my name to the list of other citizens of Toronto who support the genial idea of naming the Toronto Reference Library after Jane Jacobs. I could not state more eloquently the reasons for this proposed appellation than Mary Roberts has already done; suffice to say that I think this proposal offers you a unique opportunity to lend a special significance to your institution.

The Jane Jacobs Reference Library of Toronto; now doesn't that have an irresistible cadence to it!?

Yours Sincerely,  
Peter Harris

**From:** James Stauch  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 11:15:04 am  
**Subject:** Re: Honouring Jane Jacobs

ATTN: Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair,  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms. Ross:

I encourage you to give consideration to Councillor Adam Vaughan's excellent suggestion to re-name the Toronto Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs.

The late Ms. Jacobs' writing had a major influence on my thinking and helped me chart a career that includes urban planning, community and rural development, and supporting the advocacy and organizing efforts of Aboriginal communities within remote regions of Canada. She is a towering and vital figure in the history of Toronto. And while I'm not sure if naming a road in her honour would be appropriate, dedicating one of the best libraries in North America is a most fitting tribute.

Sincerely,

James Stauch

**From:** Adele Hurley  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor\_vaughan@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 11:15:34 am  
**Subject:** Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

To Whom It May Concern

I support naming the Toronto Reference Library after Jane Jacobs whom I admired greatly and whose vision for this city and its citizens lives on.

Best wishes;

Adele Hurley

**From:** Nancy Sampson  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 11:32:44 am  
**Subject:** Kathy Gallagher Ross regarding Jane Jacobs Tribute

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

re: Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

What a wonderful opportunity to make a small gesture of respect and thanks to a woman who did so much for our city!

I hope you will have the courage and grace to see this through and I look forward to seeing Ms. Jacobs' name associated with our Toronto Reference Library.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy A. Sampson  
Portfolio Manager  
Raymond James Ltd.

**Nancy Marshall - Support for Jane Jacobs**

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**From:** Maureen O'Donnell  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 1:27 pm  
**Subject:** Support for Jane Jacobs

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

I am writing to strongly support the proposal that the Reference library be renamed to pay tribute to Jane Jacobs.

Jacobs was a tireless advocate of public libraries, and the critical functions they play in their local and regional communities. She was very much aware of the evolving uses of libraries, reflecting the needs of that time. Plus of course she was an author whose work proudly resides within the collections of libraries worldwide. Jacobs was fundamentally about her readers informing themselves, and she saw her books as a means of provoking, motivating and supporting self-directed learning. What better name to associate with your magnificent facility, than one of the great minds of the twentieth century, who, by choice, resided in Toronto, and used books as her primary means of learning, and communication.

I urge you to pursue this terrific idea. I knew Jane Jacobs well, and although she shunned what she perceived as unearned rewards and recognition (as you probably know she turned down every honourary degree offered her) she would always support endeavours that got people reading. So this gesture might even have been acceptable to her!

She loved Toronto, admired the remarkable achievements of the TPLB (the quality of its collections, its circulation rate, its commitment to ensuring its facilities were assets to their host communities etc.) and I think this would be a wonderful tribute to the rich legacy she has left readers around the world.

I hope you will do this.  
Maureen O'Donnell  
Maureen O'Donnell Communications Inc.

## **Nancy Marshall - Naming of the Library**

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**From:** Toshiko Adilman  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 2:35 pm  
**Subject:** Naming of the Library

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Dear Ms. Gallagher Ross  
c/o Ms. Nancy Marhsall

I write this to strongly support an initiative to name the Toronto Reference Library as Jane Jacobs Library. Toronto owes this incredible writer who inspired us all. She chose our city as her home about which New York hasn't gotten over their regret.

You may already know this, but last summer Obama was being presented with "the most important book about city building" from a former mayoral candidate in Toledo, Ohio. Without waiting for further explanation, Obama said "Is it Jane Jacobs?" Judging from what he went on to speak, it's clear he had read and understood Jane Jacobs' ideas. For your interest, you will find a video clip of this incident at many sites that come up by googling "Obama Jane Jacobs."

I must say this made me truly proud. We had this extraordinary lady living in our city! It's important that we honour her in a permanent way. I cannot think of a better way to do so than to name the reference library with her name.

Toshiko Adilman

**Nancy Marshall**

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**From:** "cco"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 3:33 pm

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January 13, 2009

Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

I'd like to add my voice in support of renaming the reference library to honour Jane Jacobs. I knew Jane but briefly, but her impact on our work in the Conservation Council of Ontario has been immeasurable.

One of the major defining features of Toronto is that we are a collection of villages. It is at the heart of our community spirit and our saving grace in tough economic times. No one knew that better and espoused it more eloquently than Jane Jacobs.

Just as the Kortright Centre helps remind new generations of the contribution of the founding president of the Conservation Council of Ontario, so too will the Jane Jacobs Reference Library remind Torontonians for years to come that we were home to one of the world's greatest urban visionaries.

Sincerely,

**Chris Winter**  
**Executive Director**  
**The Conservation Council of Ontario**

**Nancy Marshall - message for Ms Gallagher Ross**

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**From:** "Bill Young"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 4:50 pm  
**Subject:** message for Ms Gallagher Ross

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Dear Ms Gallagher Ross

I am sending you this email letter to fully endorse and support the idea of naming the Toronto Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs. I could not agree more with the reasoning put forward by Councillor Vaughan in the attached letter. I am not one who normally takes up appeals when asked to do so by this kind of communication but this seems like too sensible an idea for me not to lend my support. We are all indebted to Jane Jacobs for the city we have and we need to find a public way to recognize that debt. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Young, President  
Social Capital Partners,

**From:** Pym Buitenhuis  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 7:28:35 pm  
**Subject:** Support to rename the Toronto Public Library after Jane Jacobs

To Whom it May Concern at the Toronto Public Library,

I am writing to strongly support the proposal that the Reference library be renamed to pay tribute to Jane Jacobs.

Jacobs was a tireless advocate of public libraries, and the critical functions they play in their local and regional communities. She was very much aware of the evolving uses of libraries, reflecting the needs of that time. Plus of course she was an author whose work proudly resides within the collections of libraries worldwide. Jacobs was fundamentally about her readers informing themselves, and she saw her books as a means of provoking, motivating and supporting self-directed learning. What better name to associate with your magnificent facility, than one of the great minds of the twentieth century, who, by choice, resided in Toronto, and used books as her primary means of learning, and communication.

She loved Toronto, admired the remarkable achievements of the TPLB (the quality of its collections, its circulation rate, its commitment to ensuring its facilities were assets to their host communities etc.) and I think this would be a wonderful tribute to the rich legacy she has left readers around the world.

I hope you will do this.

Pym Buitenhuis

## Nancy Marshall - Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

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**From:** "Enid Slack"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 13, 2009 9:12 pm  
**Subject:** Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms. Gallagher Ross,

I am writing in support of the proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library the *Jane Jacobs Library*. I believe that the renaming of the library would be an appropriate way to acknowledge Jane's considerable contribution to Toronto. She herself was an avid reader and library user as well as a strong advocate for public libraries.

Jane's own books have been widely circulated and have been very influential in cities throughout the world. I know that when I travel and tell people I am from Toronto, I am often asked if I knew Jane or I am asked to describe the neighbourhood she lived in (which happens to be my neighbourhood). Her books have had a huge impact on so many people in so many places.

The Toronto Public Library is such an important asset of this city and one that Jane appreciated. I think it would be a wonderful tribute to Jane's contribution to this city to name the reference library after her. I do hope you will consider it.

Yours sincerely,

Enid Slack  
Director, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance  
Munk Centre for International Studies  
University of Toronto

# EJL

EDWARD J. LEVY, P.Eng., F.I.T.E.  
Transportation Consultant

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

**To:** Nancy Marshall, Secretary, Toronto Public Library Board  
[nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

**Copy:** Councillor Vaughan  
[councillor\\_vaughan@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca)

**Re:** Proposal to name Toronto Reference Library after Jane Jacobs.

Dear Ms. Marshall;

In accordance with Councillor Vaughan's directions, I am writing, through you, to Ms. Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board to add my support for the caption proposal.

As a transportation planner of long standing (50 + years), I realize full well how Jane Jacobs' philosophy and influence has affected the way this city has developed in general, and in terms of transport policy in particular, since we were all fortunate enough to have her join us as a citizen. As you know, one of her initial forays related to the fight against the Spadina Expressway, and had that battle been lost, the consequences for all of us would have been profound – unpleasantly so.

I can add nothing more in light of Councillor Vaughan's eloquence and commitment, except to say that I would heartily approve the proposed action.

I will be pleased to send a copy of his message and mine to my own circle of colleagues and acquaintances.

Yours sincerely,

Edward J. Levy, P.Eng.

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Ross

Re: Naming Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

I am writing in support of the wonderful idea to name the Reference Library for Jane Jacobs. There are a myriad of reasons for doing so. But, my point of view is based on almost 40 years of involvement in Toronto planning, design and development matters. There is no doubt that much of what makes Toronto the vibrant city it has become can be traced back to Ms. Jacob's writings, in particular her seminal book — "The Death and Life of Great American Cities". Starting in the 1970's, the fights to maintain the downtown neighbourhoods and to stop the Spadina expressway can be linked directly to chapters in her book. Moreover the whole idea of stimulating new inner city housing and to encourage people to live in the core has shaped decades of planning policy. Perhaps most important, Ms. Jacobs, by example stimulated Torontonians to care more about their city fabric, to take unpopular stands and to understand passionately the 'art' of city building.

I can think of no more appropriate recognition of her contribution than to name the Reference Library after her.

Yours truly,

Howard Cohen  
President  
Context Development Inc.

**From:**   
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 14, 2009 9:25:01 am  
**Subject:** Naming the Reference Library

Dear Ms. Ross;

I have heard the the Board of the Toronto Public Library has reservations about naming the Metro Reference library after Jane Jacobs. I can't fathom why there would be such reservations for she was heartily and consistently in favour of any facility that enabled citizens to educate themselves.

Jane Jacobs was a great civic thinker and leader. Naming this library after her would be no more ( and even less) than she deserves.

Sincerely,  
Professor John W. Graham.

**Nancy Marshall - Renaming the reference library**

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**From:** "David Carruthers"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 14, 2009 1:53 pm  
**Subject:** Renaming the reference library

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Ms. Ross,

I entirely support City Councillor Adam Vaughan's recommendations to honour the late Jane Jacobs through the renaming of the Toronto Reference Library.

David Carruthers.

**Nancy Marshall - Re- naming Metro Library at Yonge, /Bloor**

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**From:** Jane Glassco  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor-vaughan@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** January 14, 2009 7:57 pm  
**Subject:** Re- naming Metro Library at Yonge, /Bloor

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Dear Ms MArshall,

I support renaming the Metro Library to the Jane JAcobs library. We are so lucky that she immigrated with her family not only to Canada but to Toronto. Her legacy of books written, ideas generated and stimulated within our city and her love of and admiration for books and libraries, would make this somewhat anonymous library, stand out, and stand up for values I believe are important to our city.

Sincerely

Jane Glassco

**Jane L.Glassco**

**From:** Brian Meeson  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 14, 2009 10:26:28 pm  
**Subject:** Attn. Ms Gallagher Ross

As local residents of Collier Street, who look out on the Metro Reference Library, we would like to add our support to the movement to name the library after Jane Jacobs.

We both knew Jane slightly and were always impressed by her erudition and courtesy; she took the time to listen, which may have been an extension of her curious and searching mind. Her work and passion in no small way helped to make Toronto a fine city.

Brian and Andrea Meeson

**Nancy Marshall - Re- naming Metro Library at Yonge, /Bloor**

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**From:** "Briony Glassco"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor-vaughan@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** January 15, 2009 9:18 am  
**Subject:** Re- naming Metro Library at Yonge, /Bloor

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Dear Ms Marshall,

I think re-naming the brilliant and most wonderful Toronto Public Reference library the Jane Jacobs Reference Library an inspired idea. What Toronto thinker could better grace the letterhead of this fine establishment? We were so lucky to have her live in our city and benefit from so many of her fine ideas, I think we owe her the legacy of putting her name to our beautiful library.

Yours sincerely,

Briony Glassco

January 15, 2008

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Ross and members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

**Re: Jane Jacobs**

I am writing to support the proposal to name the Toronto Reference Library in honour of **Jane Jacobs**.

I came to know Jane Jacobs during the campaign to stop the Spadina Expressway. I read her books during my undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Toronto in the '60's and 70's.

More specifically Jane became a friend. She was one of three Toronto residents, along with Councillor Anne Johnston and Mayor Sewell, appointed by Toronto City Council to represent our City at Boston's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1980. The other two residents were Alexander Ross and myself. During the celebrations, Jane was *the* keynote speaker at the "Great Cities of the World" conference attended by Mayors from about 40 of the world's greatest cities. She was the "Mayor of Mayors" at this gathering. Her prestige among these world civic leaders was such that the Toronto delegation was treated as the pre-eminent delegation at this historic gathering.

In my volunteer and neighbourhood work, Jane was extremely supportive. For example, in my neighbourhood – the Grange – her ideas heavily influenced the strategies that were taken, so that today over 4,000 new housing units, including over 20 social housing projects, have been built in our community and there are vibrant commercial strips serving residents, many of whom also work there. As residents we practiced principles learnt from Jacobs' work and from meetings with her - e.g. using old buildings to generate new ideas; interweaving local businesses with residential uses; reinforcing the pedestrian experience; carrying out daily living, including shopping within a few blocks of home.

More recently, the Learnxs Foundation (I am the volunteer Board chair) worked closely with the Toronto School Board to publish "A Breath of Fresh Air" to address outdoor learning and eco-literacy in Toronto public schools. Jane endorsed this project and encouraged us to pursue this. I might add that over the years, the Learnxs Foundation has donated several publications in sufficient quantities for branches of the Toronto Public Library.

These are just a few examples of **Jane Jacobs'** influence upon my life as a resident.

**Jane Jacobs'** contribution to our community deserves the highest honour that can be given.

Sincerely

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh

**Nancy Marshall - Letter for Ms Gallagher Ross**

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**From:** David Appleyard  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 16, 2009 9:49 am  
**Subject:** Letter for Ms Gallagher Ross

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

It has come to our attention that a proposal is being made to rename the Toronto Reference Library to pay tribute to Jane Jacobs.

Ms Jacobs was a tireless advocate of public libraries and the critical functions they play in their local and regional communities. She was an author whose work proudly resides within the collections of libraries worldwide. Jacobs was fundamentally about her readers informing themselves, and she saw her books as a means of provoking, motivating and supporting self-directed learning. What better name to associate with your magnificent facility than one of the great minds of the twentieth century, who, by choice, resided in Toronto, and used books as her primary means of learning and communicating.

As regular and consistent users of the remarkable library system in this city and as people who have periodically done research at the Reference Library, we urge you to pursue this imaginative and civic-minded idea. We had the great privilege of meeting Jane Jacobs on two occasions, and although it was typical of her personal humility to shun “unearned rewards”, she would always support endeavours that got people reading. Without ever having been elected to public office she became one of the great civic leaders, and without having had a string of university degrees she became one of the western world’s great intellectuals. She worked tirelessly throughout her life to improve our cities. But despite her accomplishments and reputation, Toronto has not yet effectively memorialized Ms Jacob and her contributions.

She loved Toronto and she recognized the extraordinary influence of the Toronto Public Library system. Like Barbara Frum, for whom we have named a public library, she is entirely worthy and deserving of this honour. For Toronto’s sake, and not just hers, I sincerely hope that you will rename this fine public facility.

Most sincerely,

David and Alison Appleyard

# THE WORD ON THE STREET

January 16, 2009.

Board Members

Toronto Public Library Board

Attn: Nancy Marshall [nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

Dear Friends:

I am writing on behalf of The Word on the Street Canada in support of a proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library to honour **Jane Jacobs**.

Jane Jacobs was a passionate advocate for returning city streets to their citizens and her work is the guiding spirit for what we do at The Word on the Street Canada.

The Word on the Street Canada is a national organization that works with cities across Canada to hold an annual festival to "celebrate reading and advocate for literacy". More than 250,000 Canadians attend Word on the Street Festivals on the last Sunday in September. At our 2008 Festivals, over 450 authors, illustrators, performers, and workshops presenters participated in 400 programmed events. There were also 500 exhibits from publishers, booksellers, literacy organizations and libraries.

Jane Jacobs left a legacy in her words, ideas, and activism and this legacy is being felt though the ever-improving quality of people's daily lives – at home, at work, at school, and on city streets and in city parks. Her ideas live on in neighbourhoods and in cities across Canada and internationally.

The Toronto Reference Library is one of Canada's great libraries and Jacobs is one of our great writers. It is therefore fitting that consideration is being given to naming the public reference library in honour of Jane Jacobs.

If you would like to discuss this, please contact me at [Jamie@raincoast.com](mailto:Jamie@raincoast.com) or 604-323-7124.

Sincerely,

  
Jamie Broadhurst  
Board Member (Vancouver) and Past President  
The Word on the Street Canada

**From:** Christopher Cowperthwaite  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 17, 2009 2:28:28 pm  
**Subject:** In favour of naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

Good day Ms. Gallagher Ross:

I am writing to ask you to support the proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library the "Jane Jacobs Library". This would be a wonderful gesture and permanent tribute to the outstanding contribution that Jane Jacobs made to Toronto and to other cities around the world from her home here in Toronto.

Many thanks for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

Chris Cowperthwaite

**From:** John Fielder  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 19, 2009 11:32:16 am  
**Subject:** Toronto Reference Library

We strongly support this initiative to rename the TRL the Jane Jacobs  
Reference Library.  
Judith and John Fielder

**Nancy Marshall - RE: Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs**

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**From:** "Anne Golden"  
**To:** "Councillor Vaughan" <Councillor\_Vaughan@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 19, 2009 1:58 pm  
**Subject:** RE: Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs  
**CC:** "Angela Kinnear" <akinnear@toronto.ca>, "Dale Duncan" <dduncan@toronto.ca>, "Jennifer Chan" <jchan@toronto.ca>, "Rebecca Hewitt" <rhewitt@toronto.ca>

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Ms. Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair,  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Ross,

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse the idea of a permanent tribute to Jane Jacobs by renaming the Toronto Reference Library to the Jane Jacobs Library.

Sincerely,  
Anne Golden

Dr. Anne Golden, C.M.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
The Conference Board of Canada

January 19, 2009

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Ross and members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

I am writing to support the proposal to name the Toronto Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs.

When I moved to Toronto in the summer of 1971 a friend gave me *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, and introduced me to Jane Jacobs. Jane became a friend and we were neighbours for more than 30 years. I'm attaching a letter from Ceta Ramkhalawansingh to me, describing Jane's role at Boston's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1980, an event that I attended. Ceta vividly conveys how Jane's presence meant that the Toronto delegation gained status and attention at this historic event. The Library could benefit, in a similar way, from having her name.

The hum of activity on the ground floor of today's Reference Library reflects many of the principles of a healthy neighbourhood described in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. I've noticed people resting – perhaps waiting for friends - by the pool area at the entrance. I've seen, in a classroom with clear glass walls, people of different ages and backgrounds in a computer class about doing research on the internet. There are always young and old people at the tables, sipping coffee and reading or working at computers. There are bulletin boards with posters advertising special activities, many for young people, piles of brochures promoting the Library's downtown author series of readings and evening Lectures, information about your Intellisearch service, and so on. The design of the library means that people using the resources on the higher floors can look down and view the diversity of activities below, and visitors on the ground floor can look up and be tempted to explore further. Of course the Library isn't a "real neighbourhood" but it's a lively similar kind of space.

Jane didn't like honours for herself, but I'm inclined to think that having the Reference Library named after her is one she would have been pleased and thrilled to accept. Toronto would be honoured by having her name on such a marvellous facility.

I hope you will look favourably on this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

  
Lynn Spink

## Nancy Marshall - naming Jane Jacobs Library

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**From:** "Finlay Alice Jean"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 20, 2009 1:07 pm  
**Subject:** naming Jane Jacobs Library

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

Recently a friend sent a copy of the attached letter to me and my wife and we want to add our support to the opinions and suggestions expressed in it. We strongly support the proposal that the Toronto Reference Library be renamed in honour of Jane Jacobs. This would be an excellent way to pay tribute to a woman who is renowned internationally for her papers and books that celebrated cities that work. Jane Jacobs was a visionary, but not just one of fine-sounding phrases, Jane Jacobs brought practicality and common sense to her vision with careful research.

We know how important books and libraries were, not only for her own work but for her understanding of a city that builds community. Re-naming the reference library in her name would be a very appropriate way to keep her name and ideas before the city of Toronto.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Terence E. Finlay  
Anglican Archbishop of Toronto (Retired)

Mrs. Alice Jean Finlay



Cities Centre  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

January 20, 2009

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Gallagher Ross,

**Re: Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs**

I am writing in support of a proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library the Jane Jacobs Library.

An urbanist of worldwide stature, Jane Jacobs adopted Toronto as her home in the 1960s and remained until her death in 2006. She was a writer and activist whose advocacy for neighbourhood continuity and the celebration of community shaped our city and the psyche of its residents. It is fitting that a Toronto institution as accessible, as well-loved and as well-used as the main reference library, located in the heart of the city at Yonge and Bloor, be given the honour of the name Jane Jacobs.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Miller  
Director

## Nancy Marshall - tribute to Jane Jacobs

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**From:** Fran and Jim McArthur  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 21, 2009 4:13 am  
**Subject:** tribute to Jane Jacobs

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

As a former resident of the city of Toronto I am writing in support of renaming the Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs.

To associate her name with the library is to bring to the attention of current and future users the remarkable example of Jane Jacobs' life. As you are aware, hers was a life fully dedicated to the well-being of citizens and their communities, Toronto in particular. As a writer whose work was based in research and extensive reading she knew very well the value of public libraries, the vital role they have in enabling public access to information and self-directed learning.

Libraries all over the world recognize her great mind. The insight she brought to the understanding of how cities function still stands tall on their shelves. That she chose Toronto as her home, that she worked tirelessly on behalf of its citizens, that her medium was the written word, surely these are reasons enough for the Toronto Public Library Board to pay tribute to the rich legacy she has left readers throughout the world.

I urge you to make this gesture

Fran McArthur

**Nancy Marshall - let's rename the Metro Toronto Reference Library**

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**From:** Marty Gross  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 21, 2009 2:26 pm  
**Subject:** let's rename the Metro Toronto Reference Library

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**Kathy Gallagher Ross**  
**Chair**  
**Toronto Public Library Board**

**Dear Ms. Ross,**

I am writing today in strong support of the idea of renaming our Metro Toronto Reference Library after the late, great, Jane Jacobs.

Jane Jacobs' contribution to the City of Toronto and to the world is widely acknowledged. A permanent memorial to her in the city of her choosing would reaffirm serve as a important examples generations of readers to come.

Sincerely yours,

Marty Gross

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Marty Gross Film Productions Inc.

## **Nancy Marshall - Tribute to Jane Jacobs support of Bob Rae**

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**From:** "Rae, Bob – Riding 1"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 22, 2009 10:48 am  
**Subject:** Tribute to Jane Jacobs support of Bob Rae

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Nancy,  
Bob supports this wonderful initiative.  
Cynthia

Neighbours of St.Alban's Park  
– an incorporated non-profit community group

January 22, 2009

211 Albany Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5R 3C7

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Ross:

We are writing to support the proposal that the Toronto Public Library Board honour Jane Jacobs by naming the Toronto Reference Library after her.

Jane Jacobs was a founding member of our neighbourhood group. She was a fierce supporter of public libraries and the role they played in healthy neighbourhoods. We have her many books on our personal bookshelves, and we know that they're available to all Torontonians through their local libraries. While she was alive her own neighbourhood honoured her by planting a series of rose bushes in St. Alban's Park – Jacobs' Ladder.

Now is the time for Toronto to honour a resident who honoured Toronto with her presence and her contributions to public life and urban planning.

Yours truly, *John Blazina*

John Blazina, for the Board of Directors

**Chair, TPL Board chair - Jane Jacobs Reference Library**

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**From:** Sarah Ojamae  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 23, 2009 2:35 pm  
**Subject:** Jane Jacobs Reference Library

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Dear, Chair,

Urged by an October 23, 2008 post written by Shawn Micallef and published on the Spacing Toronto blog, I am writing in support of a proposed name change for the Toronto Reference Library: Jane Jacobs Reference Library.

Sarah Ojamae

Margaret Atwood  
c/o McClelland & Stewart  
75 Sherbourne St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5A 2P9

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair  
Toronto Public Library  
789 Yonge St.  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 2G8

January 23, 2009

Dear Ms. Gallagher Ross,

This letter is in support of Councillor Adam Vaughan's campaign to rename the Toronto Reference Library the Jane Jacobs Library.

Ms. Jacobs was an avid user of the Toronto library system and her writings are now an important part of our collections. Ms. Jacobs' work in urban planning and development was of vital importance for the city of Toronto and certainly warrants a level of permanent recognition we have yet to offer.

I urge you to give careful consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Margaret Atwood

## Nancy Marshall - Naming the TPL Main Reference Branch for Jane Jacobs.

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**From:** Margaret Norman  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 27, 2009 4:03 pm  
**Subject:** Naming the TPL Main Reference Branch for Jane Jacobs.  
**CC:** <councillor\_vaughan@toronto.ca>

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms. Ross:

I support naming the Main Reference branch of the Toronto Public Library for Jane Jacobs. The only memorial to her in this city that I know of, is the annual award in her name to an individual who has contributed most to the life of the city. This is a prestigious award within the city, but has no particular resonance outside Toronto.

She was an international figure as witnessed by the many invitations she received to speak in cities in Canada, and outside Canada, the fact that her books were reviewed in publications both inside and outside Canada. As an international figure she should be suitably recognized in Toronto. The library is a most appropriate memorial. All writers, even novelists, are readers. People who write books about topics that require some kind of factual information, or about sociological, philosophical, historical topics- the list is almost endless- need books.

If you look at the books she wrote, there are many books noted in the references. Some of those she bought, but many were from the library. It is easy enough to buy a book currently in print, sometimes it is possible to find older, out of print books by rummaging about in second hand book stores. The TPL has a collection of great breadth; I am always impressed by what I can find there. Libraries are about the only place it is possible to find the older, out of print books. And Jane, a friend of mine, was a user of the library, and as noted above, she, like other writers, needed books, and read them carefully.

I hope you find that you are able to name the Main Reference Library for Jane Jacobs..

With best personal regards,  
Yours truly,

Margaret G. Norman, M.D.



ANNEX  
TO THE  
MEMORANDUM  
OF UNDERSTANDING  
RE: THE  
IDEASpace



January 27, 2009

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair,  
Toronto Public Library Board,  
789 Yonge Street,  
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

RE: Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

Dear Ms. Gallagher Ross,

I am writing in my capacity of President of the Ontario College of Art & Design to express my support for the proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library, the Jane Jacobs Library.

Jane Jacobs was not only an avid reader but also an influential thinker in the Toronto scene. It is wonderful to know that the City acknowledges those talented citizens that richly deserve it. I know I am speaking for the entire OCAD community when I fully back this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Diamond".

Sara Diamond  
President

## Nancy Marshall - Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

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**From:** <dean@stjamescathedral.on.ca>  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 28, 2009 11:36 am  
**Subject:** Naming the Toronto Reference Library for Jane Jacobs

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Kathy Gallagher Ross  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms Ross:

I am writing in support of the proposal that the Reference Library be renamed to pay tribute to Jane Jacobs.

Ms. Jacobs was a strong advocate of public libraries and the fundamental role they play in the life of communities.

Access to libraries meant that provocative ideas, new insights and our mutual traditions were available not to few but all citizens.

In addition, Ms. Jacobs was an internationally known Canadian and Torontonian, and it seems right that her remarkable contribution be acknowledged.

There could be no more appropriate way to pay tribute to her than by renaming the library "The Jane Jacobs Reference Library".

I hope this will be done.

The Very Reverend Douglas Stout  
Dean of Toronto  
Rector of St. James' Cathedral

## Nancy Marshall - Jane Jacobs tribute

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**From:** "Kay Armatage"  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** February 4, 2009 10:45 am  
**Subject:** Jane Jacobs tribute  
**CC:** <councillor\_vaughan@toronto.ca>

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4 February 2009

Kathy Gallagher Ross, Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge St.,  
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8  
[nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

Dear Ms. Ross

I am writing in enthusiastic support for Councillor Adam Vaughan's proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library in honour of Jane Jacobs.

There is no need for me to rehearse here Jane Jacobs' enormous contributions to the city of Toronto. She has been a revered and deeply loved citizen of Toronto for over forty years, not only inspiring municipal policies over the decades, but also actively participating in city concerns. She was an engaged and responsible contributor to debates and actions ranging from small local neighbourhood issues to mega-projects that affect the whole GTA.

I agree with Councillor Vaughan that the naming the reference library after her would be a suitable tribute, not only because she was a great library user, but also because of the library itself as an exemplary urban node. It is a wonderful work of architecture situated in the very heart of the city, and on all counts a locus of pride for Torontonians.

Yours truly,  
Kay Armatage