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City Librarian's Office

MAR 12 2009

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M. Matthew Church, Chairman
Toronto Public Library Board
789 George St.
Toronto, On. M1J 2G8

Toronto
March 5, 69

Attachment 1

Dear Mr. Church -

It hardly seems possible that thirty years ago the North York Public Library's adult literacy programme was established. It all came about because one person, Margaret Cannings, Head of the York Woods Branch, brought attention to the demonstrated need for such a programme in that area.

Marshalling facts, figures, material and staff requirements, keen support in social agencies in the area and identifying potential volunteers, Margaret brought the case forward. The need was overwhelming and administration agreed to proceed on a small basis.

It didn't take long to prove the

efficacy of the programme. So, we advanced into a permanent and system-wide programme.

During all of the development and establishment of this new direction for the Library, the strong, quiet and compassionate leader was Margaret Canning.

Many years later, in 1987, when I was retiring as Director, the Library Board recognized my own small contribution by naming the literacy programme room in the new Central Library as the Jean Offwood Adult Literacy Centre.

In the years since, I have always wanted to have that room re-named. In August, 2007, Margaret Canning died. Now, though it is too late for her to know this, I am writing to ask the Library Board's consideration to re-naming the room the Margaret Canning and Jean Offwood Adult Literacy Centre. I am asking because I believe recognition should be given to the real creator of the adult literacy movement in the library.

Thank you for your attention
Sincerely, Jean Offwood