



**STAFF REPORT
INFORMATION ONLY**

Communications Report

Date: May 29, 2024

To: Naming Committee

From: City Librarian

It is recommended that the Naming Committee:

1. receives Communication (a) from Pamella Houston, Ontario Black History Society, to TPL Board Members, dated May 15, 2024, expressing support for the renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch after Daniel G. Hill, for information;
2. receives Communication (b) from Kim Bernhardt to TPL Board Members, dated May 18, 2024, expressing support for the renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch after Daniel G. Hill, for information;
3. receives Communication (c) from Dennis Scott, Founder/Chair, Halton Black History Awareness Society, expressing support for the renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch after Daniel G. Hill, for information;
4. receives Communication (d) from Rosemary Sadlier OOnt to TPL Board Members, dated May 22, 2024, expressing support for the renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch after Daniel G. Hill, for information;
5. receives Communication (e) from Kathy Grant to Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, dated May 24, 2024, expressing support for the renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch after Daniel G. Hill, for information; and
6. receives Communication (f) from Jean Abou Saab, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intergovernmental & Agency Relations to Chairs and Administrative Heads, City Agencies and Corporations, for information. The City's

Executive Committee on February 29, 2024 adopted [Item EX12.8 - Recommendation from the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee on Inclusion of Names for Consideration when Renaming Civic Assets \(February 29, 2024\)](#) and requested governing bodies overseeing the decision on the naming of City of Toronto assets to consider names of anti-racism trailblazers and leaders, to highlight the City of Toronto's commitment to anti-racism.

SIGNATURE

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

a.

Philippa Williamson

From: OBHS <admin@blackhistorysociety.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 7:21 PM
To: Vickery Bowles; Alim Remtulla
Subject: Renaming Jane/Dundas Library Dan Hill III

Hello, this is Pamella Houston from the Ontario Black History Society..

I cannot put into words how thrilled and honored I am in knowing that this renaming of a Library may be named after Mr.Dan Hill Sr, a Black History Icon and also I might add the Founder of my Office, The Ontario Black History Society..

Dan Hill Sr, had his own agenda when it came to Human Rights and made it appoint to do his best to follow his dream through..Rights for everyone, no matter the Colour of your skin, no matter what Religion. I feel Dan Hill Sr deserves this and I hope this comes to light.

Sincerely,
Pamella Houston - The Ontario Black History Society supports this..

Ontario Black History Society
401-10 Adelaide Street, E | Toronto, ON, M5C 1J3
Phone: 416 867-9420
<http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca/> | @OBhistory

May 18, 2024

To: Toronto Public Library Board
Re: Naming of Library in honour of Dr. Daniel G. Hill

Good afternoon Ms. Bowles, Chief Librarian and Mr. Remtulla, TPLB Chair

I am delighted to hear that the Toronto Public Library Board (TPLB) is considering renaming the Jane/Dundas library in honour of Dr. Dan Hill. He is very worthy of such recognition, and it is particularly appropriate for a library to be named in his honour.

Dan was an academic scholar who used his research to shape and develop his career in public service. As the original Director of Ontario's Human Rights Commission (and later the Chief Commissioner), after successfully working for its creation, Dan developed the blueprint for the human rights systems across Canada, much of which is still in place today. He was appointed by the Attorney General of Ontario to conduct a major study of, and report on, the practices of religious cults, sects, and mind development groups. His book, *The Freedom Seekers*, was seminal in researching and writing about the history of Blacks in Canada. He was Ontario's third Ombudsman. In his volunteer capacity, Dan, amongst others such as my father Wilson Brooks, founded the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS). These are but examples of the ways in which Dan has impacted the lives of all people in Ontario, especially Black Ontarians. On a personal level I credit Dan, and his spouse Donna, for sparking and supporting my career and volunteer work in human rights and law.

Perhaps Dan's greatest contribution to advancing knowledge and appreciation of history and the importance of education is the legacy he, and Donna, passed along to their three children, Dan Hill (singer, songwriter, author), Lawrence (author, teacher), and Karen (author and poet). I grew up as a close family friend with the Hill family, and know that the value placed on education, reading, learning, and the arts was central to the lives of each member of the family.

As a proud Torontonian it would be a great feeling to enter a library that bears the name of such a talented and successful individual as Daniel G. Hill III.

Thank you for considering my letter of support.

Yours truly,

Kim S. Bernhardt

Kim S. Bernhardt
Arbitrator and Mediator



C.

Halton Black History Awareness Society

www.hbhas.ca

Burlington Ontario, Canada

“Community, Roots & Culture”

Good Day,

It is a pleasure to support Jane/Dundas Library being renamed Dan Hill Sr. as he was one of the most prolific contributors to Canada's Black history. It was also a pleasure, as Chair of the Owen Sound's Emancipation Picnic (North America's longest continuous running Emancipation celebration in “the most northerly retreat of the Underground Railroad”), to award Dan Hill Sr. an Award of Recognition in 2003 for his numerous contributions.

Dan Hill, the first Director and Chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and later the provinces ombudsman; honouree of the Special Human Rights Award For Lifetime Achievement by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada; one of the founders - with his wife Donna - of the Ontario Black History Society, its first President and currently Honorary President Emeritus; and recipient of the Canadian Labour Congress Award and the Order of Canada (2000).

“Twenty years following the publication of his thesis, *Negroes in Toronto*, Hill wrote *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* in 1981, a seminal work that continues to be referenced since it was the first book on African-Canadian history. The material that was uncovered during his research for *Freedom Seekers* helped to produce the photographs used in the preparation of the first African-Canadian traveling exhibit, *Blacks in Early Ontario*, and was a resource for the OBHS to create the first African-Canadian historical film, *A Proud Past, A Promising Future*. ... Hill began the tradition of going into schools and offering Black history presentations which continues to this day. An Ontario Black History Society award, The *Daniel G. Hill Community Service Award* was created by the OBHS for outstanding contributors to society.” – Rosemary Sadlier, President, OBHS – www.blackhistorysociety.ca/DanHill.htm.

Dan Hill passed away at 79 on June 26, 2003. “He is survived by his wife Donna, and his children Dan, Larry and Karen, and several grandchildren.” We are forever indebted to him for the paths he pioneered and are pleased to present him with this year’s *Emancipation Celebration Achievement Award*.” – Dennis Scott, Chair Emancipation Celebration Picnic (2003).

Being a associate of Larry Hill since 2001, and an associate of Les McKinnon who edited Dan's Freedom Seekers, while a journalism student at Ryerson Technology College and one of 5 of the most knowledgeable historians on Canadian Black History, of course including Larry and Dan Hill Sr., it is with pride that I support and promote all that will acknowledge this stupendous Canadian icon. Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Dennis Scott

Founder/Chair, Halton Black History Awareness Society (HBHAS)

“Creating awareness about black history”

Exceptional People Build Exceptional Communities

Rosemary Sadlier OOnt

65 Scadding Avenue, Suite 623
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5A 4L1

E: rosemary.sadlier@gmail.com
R: 416 762-8234
C: 416 574-8234

d.

May 22, 2024

Vickery Bowles (City Librarian) vbowles@tpl.ca
Alim Remtulla (TPLB Chair) aremtulla@tpl.ca

To Members of the Library Board

RE: Dr. Daniel G. Hill naming for a Library

I have had the great pleasure of meeting, working with and knowing Dr. Daniel G. Hill for many years, following his efforts to create the Ontario Black History Society, with others. I was also highly appreciative of his book, *The Freedom Seekers*, and both he and the book inspired and guided my own time heading the only Black focused Provincial Heritage Organization of the Province of Ontario for more than 22 years.

It is because of what Dr. Hill, and others, began, that I was able to amplify and extend the formal commemorations of February as Black History Month at all levels of government. It is because of Dr. Hill that I was able, after a process of more than 20 years, to succeed in having August 1st recognized at every level of government in Canada. It is because of Dr. Hill that I have been able to see to the formal recognitions of many people, places and events of significance locally, regionally and nationally. It is because of Dr. Hill that I agreed to the challenge of writing a book on Black History and now I am about to have my 8th publication released.

Among the commemorations that I hoped to secure, was a library in the name of Dr. Hill. When I introduced this idea many, many years ago to a Toronto Public Library board meeting along with Samuel Getachew, it seemed likely, but there was some discussion about the scarcity of new libraries and time that might be required to see this happen. I believe we were also advised that already named libraries would not really welcome a new name.

With the greater interest in diversity and with the controversy surrounding anything bearing the Dundas name, I believe that we are at a point where residents would welcome a name change for the Jane/Dundas Library.

With the renaming of Yonge Dundas Square as a compromise to changing all road signs and TTC signage along Dundas, I believe that this is also a meaningful compromise towards incorporating an important legacy name while addressing the challenge of maintaining a tainted name and legacy. It is another opportunity to apply a creative lens towards addressing a current matter.

Despite this library not being in the immediate vicinity of the Hill home, I believe that the legacy of Dr. Daniel G. Hill is sufficiently large and impactful that his name is familiar to the entire city, Province and the country.

Another reason that the name of Dr. Dan Hill is appropriate for this branch is due to the reality that he headed, was the first director of the Ontario Human Rights Commission - a legacy of diversity, inclusion and equity.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 416 762 8234.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Sadlier".

Rosemary Sadlier OOnt.

e.

Philippa Williamson

From: Kathy Grant <kathyrowegrant@gmail.com>
Sent: May 24, 2024 at 6:13:59 PM EDT
To: Vickery Bowles
Cc: Alim Remtulla
Subject: Letter of support for renaming library The Dan Hill III

Dear Vickery

I have recently learned that Toronto City Council as part of the larger Dundas Street Renaming project, had requested that the Toronto Public Library rename the Jane/Dundas branch to the proposed name of The Daniel G.Hill Branch. Having written articles on Black Canadian history and served as Vice President of the Ontario Black History Society, I remain very pleased about this possibility.

I am familiar with his pioneering Human Rights work and frequently access the 1963 Negroes in Ontario in the 19th Century exhibit at the Toronto Reference Library that he helped curate.

I enthusiastically support the renaming.

Sincerely,

Kathy Grant

Canadian Black History Historian



Name: Jean Abou Saab
Title: Deputy Chief of Staff,
Intergovernmental & Agency Relations

City Hall
100 Queen Street West
East Tower, 4th floor
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Memorandum f.

Tel: 416-392-3922
Jean.AbuSaab@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca

May 24, 2024

To: Chairs and Administrative Heads
City Agencies and Corporations

From: Jean Abou Saab, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intergovernmental & Agency Relations

Re: **Executive Committee Decision in Item 2024 EX12.8: Recommendation from the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee on Inclusion of Names for Consideration When Renaming City Assets**

Executive Committee on February 29, 2024 adopted [Item EX12.8 - Recommendation from the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee on Inclusion of Names for Consideration when Renaming Civic Assets \(February 29, 2024\)](#) and requested governing bodies overseeing the decision on the naming of City of Toronto assets to consider Dudley Laws, Charles Roach, Chloe Cooley and John M. Tinsley among the broader list of names for consideration to rename assets, along with names of anti-racism trailblazers and leaders, to highlight the City of Toronto's commitment to anti-racism.

For reference, please also refer to the Guiding Principles for Commemoration in the [Commemorative Framework for the City of Toronto's Public Spaces](#) adopted by City Council on July 19, 2022, and that Council requested be adopted by City Agencies and Corporations.

If required, please feel free to contact me directly.

Jean Abou Saab
Deputy Chief of Staff, Intergovernmental & Agency Relations

CC :

Paul R. Johnson, City Manager
Senior Leadership Team, City of Toronto
Kate Bassil, Chief of Staff
James Lapierre, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategy & Integration
Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development and Culture