

Nancy Marshall

From: Richard Yeardye - Toronto Branch Chair <torontochair@ogs.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 9:40 AM
To: Nancy Marshall
Subject: Re: November Board Meeting presentation
Attachments: Background to OGS Presentation to Toronto Public Library Board.docx

Nancy here is the completed information and Background document for our request to present to the Library Board meeting on November 23

.....Richard

Name: Alan Campbell, President, Ontario Genealogical Society

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Outline of presentation: OGS recommendations regarding the closure of the Canadiana room at the NYCL.

Background: attached Word document

Email address of presenter: President@ogs.on.ca

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Background to OGS Presentation to Toronto Public Library Board

The historical and genealogical collections of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) have been housed in the Canadiana Room at the North York Central Library (NYCL) for at least 20 years. The Canadiana Room also contains collections from other organizations such as the Jewish Genealogical Society. The OGS collection includes books, periodicals, rare books, maps, microfilmed resources and cemetery transcripts. In all, there are over 11,000 items. The Canadiana Room is staffed with trained local history, family history, and genealogical support personnel.

In October, OGS was notified that the Canadiana Room will be closed in the near future and the collections compressed and moved to the Toronto Reference Library (TRL). The staff support for the OGS collections at the TRL is unclear. Also, the schedule of the closure of the Canadiana Room and the date of access to the collections at the TRL has not been finalized, but it does appear that there will be a lengthy period when there is no access to the collections.

OGS, and the other affected organizations, are deeply concerned regarding the closure of the Canadiana Room, access to the collections both during and after the move, and TRL staffing and skills. However, OGS recognizes that the Canadiana Room closure is part of a larger strategic plan for the NYCL. Oddly enough, while the Toronto Public Library is essentially divesting itself of a centre for historical and genealogical research, other major cities such as Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax and Regina continue to have established local history and genealogical centres.

OGS proposes to work cooperatively with the NYCL, to ensure a successful move of the OGS collections to the Toronto Reference Library. We believe that there is an implementation plan that will achieve the goals of the Toronto Public Library and at the same time, satisfy the needs of library patrons who require access to the OGS collections and other resources currently located in the Canadiana Room.

The presentation to the Toronto Public Library Board on November 23rd will contain a number of recommendations from the OGS President.