

Nancy Marshall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 12:08 PM
To: Nancy Marshall
Cc: president@jgstoronto.ca
Subject: TPL Board Meeting 23Nov2015: Request by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto to speak about the Canadian Room closure
Attachments: Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto -TPL Board Meeting 23Nov2015.docx
Importance: High

Dear Nancy,

As per our discussion on Monday, and my follow-up telephone message yesterday, I am forwarding our request to speak at the Toronto Public Library Board meeting on Monday, 23 November 2015. The president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, Les Kelman, will speak about the closure of the Canadian Room. Please find attached our formal presentation request as per the instructions on your website.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us by phone: me at [REDACTED] or Les Kelman at [REDACTED] or by email.

Thank you,

Marla Waltman
Vice-President,
Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto
vp@jgstoronto.ca

**Request to make a presentation to the Toronto Public Library Board about the closing of the
Canadian Room at the North York Public Library
23 November 2015**

Name: Les Kelman, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto
Address: 85 Seneca Hill Drive, North York, M2J 2W3
Telephone Number: 416-494-4744

Outline of the presentation

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto library has been housed in the Canadiana Room for twenty-three years. As a charitable volunteer organisation with no office or meeting space of our own, we have relied on the Toronto Public Library to safeguard our 500 volume collection and make it available to the public. Like the Ontario Genealogical Society, which also has its library housed in the Canadiana Room, we have benefited from an excellent relationship with its skilled staff.

We were shocked, therefore, by the notice we received in October that the Canadiana Room would be closed, and all local history and genealogical materials would be removed from the branch. We are disturbed that this remarkable resource will no longer be available to genealogists and local historians. In a city of our size, it is a huge loss.

In addition, and to our dismay, our Society was told, without consultation, that the decision to close the Canadiana Room was a fait accompli.

We have been given a very short time to resolve a difficult problem. Other than the Toronto Public Library there is no logical location for our library collection. After exploring other potential sites, we realize that we have few options that will ensure our library materials will remain safe and accessible to the public.

The TPL says it is prepared to take ownership of our collection and, after culling duplicates or materials it does not wish to retain, will place the remaining materials in the Toronto Reference Library. We have no further information. We are prepared to work collaboratively with the Toronto Public Library to facilitate this process, but also wish to ensure that as much of our collection as possible remains available to meet the needs of genealogists and local historians who are researching their Jewish roots in Toronto.

We have recommendations that we will make during our presentation to the Toronto Public Library Board.

Any relevant documentation

Email address (if request is sent by email): president@jgstoronto.ca