

From: Stephanie McLean <smclean@oshawalibrary.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 9:59 AM
To: Racheal Rossetti <RRossetti@oshawa.ca>; Mary Medeiros <MMedeiros@oshawa.ca>
Cc: Frances Newman <fnewman@oshawalibrary.on.ca>; Doug Thomson
M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1)
Subject: OPL - Item for City Council Meeting

Good morning,

The Oshawa Public Library Board made the following motion at a Board meeting held on March 17th, regarding a request made by an Oshawa resident. We are forwarding this correspondence for consideration by City Council.

MOTION - Moved by Jim Clapp, seconded by Jacqueline Quinn,

“That the Oshawa Public Library Board has received correspondence from Heather Young respecting a request to consider honouring former Library CEO, Ruth Brooking by renaming the Delpark Library branch, or a future Library branch location after Ms. Brooking; and further, the Board recommends that this request be sent to the City Clerk’s Office to be distributed to City Council for review at Council’s next regularly scheduled Council meeting.”

CARRIED

Kindly confirm receipt of this email as we are having issues with our email.

Kind regards,
Stephanie

Stephanie McLean
Executive Assistant, CEO’s Office
Oshawa Public Libraries
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Web: www.oshlib.ca

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March 9, 2022

To: The Oshawa Public Library Board,

The Oshawa paper, "This Week", dated March 3, 2022 contained an article stating that the Northview Branch of the Oshawa Public Library is to be renamed to honor a local politician.

I would like to suggest Ruth Patricia Brooking, former CEO of the Oshawa Public Library, for consideration of such an honor at the Dell Park library, or a future location of the Oshawa Public Library System.

Ruth P. Brooking started her career at the Oshawa Library in 1946 as a clerk. She became CEO in 1974 and retired from the CEO position in 1993, after working 47 years at the Oshawa Library. Ruth P. Brooking held several positions throughout the library system, Head of the Circulation Department, Head of the Catalogue Dept., Head of the Adult Services, Assistant to the Chief Librarian, and then, Chief Librarian.

During her years as chief librarian Ruth Brooking managed many changes in the library and how it operated. A passenger elevator was installed, heated ramps, sidewalks and automatic doors, a new Bookmobile was purchased and two new branches, the Jess Hann and Northview, opened in 1977 and 1987 respectively. The biggest change was the automation of the library system. This began in 1985, when Ruth Brooking was CEO and the new system became visible to the public in the early 1990's. The library was a test site in Canada for the GEAC computer system and used the data base of Kitchener's library to get its own computer base started. Putting the library's immense collection "on line" was a challenge. The province gave the Oshawa library an innovation award for its data-acquisition plan. Current members of the Oshawa Public Library can select and personally scan materials to borrow. This system change began with Ruth Brooking's initiative.

Ruth Brooking was actively involved in several Oshawa community organizations, and was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation. Ruth served as Vice President on the Board of Directors of Parkwood Estate and on the Board of Brooklin United Church. Ruth was a member of the Rotary Club of Oshawa, the Air Cadet committee and the Canadian Club of Oshawa and Durham, of which she served as President from 1989-1990. For her many years of volunteer service to the City of Oshawa Ruth was awarded the Queen's golden Jubilee Medal in 2000. She was grateful to have known Col. Sam McLaughlin and his wife, Adelaide. In 1954, they built and completely furnished the downtown library and provided for another addition in 1966. The McLaughlins funded the first bookmobile and in 1979 the McLaughlin foundation replaced it. Ruth Brooking's dedication to the Oshawa Public library and the people of Oshawa is evident by how she lived. Please consider her as a candidate for a future dedication.

Sincerely,

Heather Young
M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1), Oshawa,
ON M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1) M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1)