

Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room

AT THE TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY



Why It Matters

The **Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room** at the Toronto Reference Library will celebrate and pay tribute to Jack Rabinovitch's legacy and deepen the love of CanLit even further into the city's fabric. Support of this dynamic project will create a beautiful space to house and share Jack's personal collection, enable a bespoke suite of compelling programming, and continue Jack's lifelong commitment to Canadian literature.

Since 1987, Toronto Public Library has supported Canadian writers through free access to dedicated spaces, inspiring collections, high quality programming and mentoring opportunities. What better place than the Toronto Public Library – in the heart of the city and just down the street from the Rabinovitch family home – to honour a man who was wholeheartedly committed to Canadian literature, had an incredible love of writers and a deep belief in diversity and accessibility.

In 1994, Jack Rabinovitch created the Giller Prize in honour of his late wife Doris Giller. The prestigious award recognizes excellence in long format or short story Canadian fiction, and over the years, Jack collected an extensive personal library of books, including all Giller Prize authors. He built a diverse and important collection of Canadian literature and with Jack's passing in 2017, his family has generously donated this collection along with memorable family treasures to Toronto Public Library.

Jack Rabinovitch had a lifelong commitment to literature. From selling newspapers as a child with his father on the cold street corners in Montreal, to creating the most prestigious and renowned literary award in Canada as an homage to the love of his life; from the ghetto to the Giller, as his daughters like to say. Jack was an insatiable

reader, consuming everything from comic books to Shakespeare, and his love of reading fueled his admiration of writers.

In Jack's memory, his daughters and Toronto Public Library, together with generous donors, are creating the **Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room**. This special space will be a fitting tribute to Jack's legacy by providing a permanent home for his book collection and enabling his passion for literature to live on. To be located at the Toronto Reference Library and totaling approximately 2,500 square feet, the **Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room** will be a beautiful and inspiring space where everyone is welcome and can be exposed to Canadian literature. The vibrant space will also be a spot where aspiring writers will work, read, collaborate and create.



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RABINOVITCH READING ROOM

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