

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Jenkins

Seconded by: Councillor Fletcher

Mayor Miller and Members of Council are saddened by the sudden passing of Ken Erskine Duncan on June 6, 2010.

Ken was the son of the late Wilfrid Duncan, first Commissioner of the Toronto Transit Commission, and Beatrice. He served in World War II, stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland, Halifax and London, England as an Artillery Trainer.

Ken will best be remembered for his contributions to the Toronto Botanical Gardens over the past 38 years. As founder of the Rhododendron Society of Canada in 1971, Ken managed to create an oasis of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Magnolias and Hydrangeas at Edwards Gardens. He could be found digging beds, dragging hoses or mulching whenever the weather permitted. His calls for mulch – no not the regular mulch but that special one for the Rhododendrons, were an annual occurrence in the Councillor's Office.

Ken received many awards for his volunteer work at Edwards Gardens. Visitors to Edwards Gardens will note the sign the Toronto Botanical Gardens erected in honour of Ken's contributions, it reads: "Ken Duncan's Rhododendron Dell".

In 1990, he was presented with an Ontario Horticultural Association Award; followed by an Ontario Volunteer Recognition Award in 1997; President's Citation from the Rhododendron Society of Canada in 1998; a Canada Day Achievement Award in 2001; and the Toronto Clean and Beautiful Award in 2005.

Ken was a loving husband to Hazel; devoted father to late son Robin; son Douglas, his wife Becky and daughters Sarah and Jessica; son Wilfred; daughter Iris and husband Mark; and daughter Adrienne and partner Jeff; grandchildren Kirsten and Alexander; and brother Mac.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Ken Erskine Duncan's family.

July 6, 2010