

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor Rob Ford

Seconded by: Councillor Lindsay Luby

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sophia Gawur on December 1, 2011.

Sophia Gawur was born in 1921 in the Carpathian Village of Bytkiv. Fluent in several languages, Sophia immigrated to Canada in 1948 and a year later married her beloved husband Wolodymyr. They had two children, Roman and Luba and for many years Sophia worked at the Eaton's Department store in downtown Toronto.

Always active in her community, Sophia Gawur volunteered for many Ukrainian community organizations and events, working endless hours to raise funds to build a parish school at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral on Franklin Avenue. St. Josaphat's is the oldest Ukrainian Church in Toronto and has been designated a historical site by the City of Toronto.

After a fire gutted the original Cathedral building in the early 1960's, Sophia Gawur raised funds for an extensive renovation.

Having moved into the last "dry area", West Toronto in 1961, Sophia volunteered for the Temperance Movement in every election when there was an attempt to open the area to the sale of alcohol. Although Sophia was not opposed to the consumption of alcohol she didn't believe that taverns and bars should be located in a residential area.

In 2001, Sophia moved to the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre at St. Demetrius where for the past 10 years, she served as the Vice President of the Residents Council Committee Executive. Sophia was also an Executive Member of the Food Advisory Committee at the Centre.

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

January 17, 2012