

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Gary Crawford

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Layton

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Charles Howat on Monday, December 26, 2011.

Thomas Howat was born in Glasgow, Scotland on May 18, 1951. He grew up on the rough streets of Glasgow until, at an early age, he was sent to Canada to live with his grandparents. Years later, he was re-united with his parents in Canada, and although he was not in the best of physical health, Thomas and his mother cared for his ailing father for years until his father's passing. He was always proud of his Scottish heritage.

Thomas Howat led a tough life on the streets and eventually ended up at Seaton House in downtown Toronto. His move to Birchmount Residence from Seaton House provided a safe haven for Thomas and he quickly accepted it as his new home and, the other residents, as his new family. He was generous and understanding toward other residents and always ready to lend money or a hand to his new friends.

Thomas Howat enjoyed martial arts. The job he talked about most was when he was a manager and instructor at a martial arts club on Yonge Street in Toronto. He also told many stories about his two sons. He loved to tell stories. The signature black cowboy hat, duster greatcoat, and cowboy boots marked his enjoyment in dressing well.

Thomas Howat will be remembered by his friends at Birchmount Residence as the man they knew - a person who cared for others and stood up for the things he believed in. Others may remember him for the deputation he made at the City of Toronto, 'Special' Budget Committee on December 7, 2011 in order to help save his Birchmount home.

Following a sudden illness on December 23, 2011, Thomas Howat was admitted to Toronto East General Hospital where he passed away on December 26, 2011. His funeral service was held on January 12, 2012 with many friends in attendance.

Thomas Howat will be sadly however, proudly missed by all.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Thomas Howat's family and friends.

January 17, 2012