

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: **Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon**

Seconded by: **Councillor Paula Fletcher**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Christopher Blythe, 59 years old, on Tuesday, October 1, 2013.

Chris was a professional photographer for almost 40 years specializing in real-time location photography of people, places and events. He started his photography career in the music industry shooting acts such as Santana, The Cars, The Guess Who, The Police, Elton John, to name just a few. He later became the official photographer for the PC Party in the Bill Davis era both provincially and federally.

Chris was also an award-winning writer and publisher, probably best known in his neighbourhood, the Beach Triangle, for his work with the Beach Triangle Residents Association (BTRA). Chris was first elected to the BTRA Board in 1998, served as Chair until 2001, and continued as a board member until his passing. With energy to spare, Chris also took on a number of other issues affecting his neighbourhood: development of Woodbine Park following demolition of the race track, ending incineration at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant, the Police Picnic at Woodbine Park, and opposition to the Greenwood Off-Track Betting facility.

Chris was born in Ottawa, Ontario, the youngest of four boys, and spent the first 10 years of his life in New Hamburg, a small town outside of Kitchener. He moved to Toronto with his family in early 1974 into an apartment above what was then the Bank of Commerce at the junction of Queen Street and Kingston Road. The building now houses Murphy's Law Irish Pub.

Chris loved being a dad and was the stay-at-home parent. He was heavily involved in his sons' daycare and school, Kew Beach PS. This was his introduction into community work leading to his engagement in local politics. He also taught the after-school cooking class for several years.

Chris was always open to new experiences. He loved to read anything that was well-written, was fascinated by religion, intrigued by history, enjoyed building things, was a creative cook (famous for his charcoal barbequed turkey and focaccia) and an excellent handy man.

Chris always used to say, "I'm still at the inquisitive stage". For those who knew him well, it is a perfect epitaph.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Chris Blythe's wife Pat, and sons Thom and Aarron.

October 9, 2013