

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Gord Perks

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Thompson

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened by the passing of Alex Ling, an original member of Toronto's first Business Improvement Area, the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Area.

Alex Ling was born in Melbourne, Australia. He grew up in Shanghai and in April 1950, at the age of 17, he immigrated with his family to Canada. After completing his studies, Alex joined his father in Toronto where they operated the family's wholesale importing business, "Oriental Arts Trading Company". In the mid-1950's, they opened their first retail store, "Ling's Importers" on Yonge Street, north of Eglinton.

In 1971 Alex moved "Ling's Importers" to a new location at 2257 Bloor Street West and shortly thereafter, he found himself on the board of the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Area, the first Business Improvement Area in the world. Alex was first elected as Chair in 1979 and worked very hard for the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Area and the neighbourhood.

With the success of the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Area, its model was mirrored through Toronto. In the early 1980's, with the help of City Hall, Alex started the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas to give support to all Business Improvement Areas in the City of Toronto. Alex was Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas' President for 19 years.

Alex Ling was a man of foresight. He consistently developed new ways to promote and champion small business but also had the vision of environmental responsibility. In 1990, Alex led the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Area into a new era by implementing the first blue box recycling program for businesses. Alex was also instrumental in converting tree lighting into solar power and thus retired over 45 hydro meters.

On March 3, 2005, Alex's 30 years of volunteering and activism was honoured by the dedication of a fountain in his name at the corner of Jane and Bloor.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Alex Ling's family, friends and loved ones.

December 5, 2018