CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Jenkins

Seconded by: Councillor Parker

Mayor Miller and Members of Council are saddened by the sudden passing of Thomas John Bata on September 1, 2008.

Thomas Bata was born in Prague in 1914, and in 1932, after his father's death, took over the helm of the Bata Shoe Company. With the threat of the Second World War, many families from Czechoslovakia, including the Bata family, moved to Canada. There, Tom and his wife Sonja began the rebuilding and expansion of the Bata Shoe Company. One of the Bata company's principles is serving the community and providing its customers good value for their money.

Thomas Bata used his entrepreneurial skills and business acumen to transform this shoe-making enterprise into one of the world’s largest shoe manufacturers and private companies, with its head office located in Don Valley West in Toronto. Mr. Bata devoted his talents and resources to the support of many Toronto charities, hospitals and cultural institutions, including the Canadian Opera Company, Junior Achievement Toronto and York Region, the National Ballet School, North York General Hospital and the Toronto Children’s Chorus.

On the occasion of his 90th birthday on September 17, 2004, and in recognition of his contributions to the City of Toronto, the City honoured him by naming one of the pathways in Wilket Creek Park as ‘Thomas Bata Trail’.

Tom and Sonja are among Toronto’s and Canada’s most well-known philanthropists. Tom was recognized for his humanitarian initiatives and was installed as a Companion of the Order of Canada. He received similar praise in his homeland of Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom. Tom was a great inspiration to the many people fortunate enough to meet him.

He leaves behind his wife Sonja, son Thomas Jr., his daughters, Christine and Monica and many grandchildren.

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

September 24, 2008