

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

Seconded by: Councillor Pam McConnell

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Rod Kelly on May 9, 2015.

Rod Kelly's passion for heritage preservation helped to shape the 'new' Heritage Toronto as a purveyor of public heritage programs and the champion for Toronto's historical legacy. Rod joined Heritage Toronto in 2000 and worked tirelessly to build the organization's profile and fulfill its mandate.

'Leave no finger prints' was Rod Kelly's mantra while he worked with the team at Heritage Toronto. The irony is that his fingerprints were all over the organization and many of its accomplishments during his tenure.

Using his extensive network of contacts Rod helped develop Heritage Toronto's media profile in its early days by ensuring that its news releases gained editorial attention across the City; writing or re-writing many of those releases. He built and launched the first website before turning his attention to his real job of raising money. This he did with great success by securing the sponsorship of Heritage Toronto's flagship public program, the annual walking tours of Toronto's heritage sites and neighbourhoods – a program that continues to enjoy the wonderful support of the TD Bank group, now in its fourteenth year.

Rod took control of the annual Heritage Toronto Awards/William Kilbourn Lecture evening and turned it into the premier annual heritage "must attend" event in the City, attracting an audience that went far beyond the heritage community. The installation of the Babe Ruth plaque with its accompanying international press scrum was in many ways an inspiration of Rod's mind.

We will miss Rod's keen intellect and challenging mind that had little tolerance for soft or ill-considered positions, along with his mischievous sense of humour but we will have these solid accomplishments with us always and hence, he will always be with us. We are all of us better for that.

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

June 10, 2015