

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Jim Karygiannis

Seconded by: Councillor Norman Kelly

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Robert Kenneth (Bob) Thomson on January 12, 2016.

Bob Thomson was a Canadian veteran and educator.

In 1953, while attending the University of Western Ontario, in the Pre Professional Program, Bob joined the Canadian Officers Training Program and was assigned to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. He transferred to the School of Physical and Health Education at the University of Toronto in 1954 and continued training with the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, graduating as a Second Lieutenant.

Bob was one of four Royal Canadian Armoured Corps graduates chosen to serve with the Canadian Army in Europe in the summer of 1956 - assigned to "A" Squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, stationed in Werl, West Germany. The Squadron provided the armoured component for the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade located in Soest.

After a year of service, he returned to Canada for his final year at the University of Toronto. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Canadian Army Regular Force and served with the Royal Canadian Dragoons as part of the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt.

Returning to Canada in 1960, Bob left the military and began his career as an educator serving in many elementary and secondary schools in Scarborough.

In 1972, as the vice-principal for the new J.B. Tyrell Senior Public School, he computerized the staff timetable complete with "spares" and "on calls" as well as report cards and daily attendance records. At Wexford Collegiate Institute, he installed the first electronic library security system in Scarborough in order to protect the growing collection supporting the Art Centre.

In 1979, Bob became founding principal of Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute. In his application, he wrote that he had been involved in a new school or major construction in Scarborough in every position from teacher, Department Head, Vice-Principal and Principal and felt he had the experience to bring in a new complex to the education system. He was principal there until 1986.

In 1987, Bob was promoted as an Associate Superintendent of Schools for Area Ten. He worked with Ken Miles, Jeanne Milovanovic and Paul Addie to introduce the Reading Recovery program to schools in his area saying it was one of the most meaningful and effective projects of his career. Bob Thomson retired in 1993.

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

February 3, 2016