

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Janet Davis

Seconded by: Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Liza Ordubegian on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at the age of 55.

Liza lived in the Danforth and Coxwell neighbourhood, near the Earl Beatty Community Centre, for more than 20 years. Long before this neighbourhood's renaissance, Liza was the area's ambassador and stalwart champion.

A landscape architect and a Toronto Master Gardener, she enthusiastically shared her extensive botanical and horticultural knowledge. Liza inspired young and old to join in local greening efforts. A passionate advocate for the environment, she co-founded the Earl Beatty School Ecoteam that planted more than 1000 bulbs on site, created a butterfly garden and an outdoor classroom. Liza also worked to find practical green solutions to other school sites through her work as an environmental advisor to the Toronto District School Board.

Her energy and devotion powered the Earl Beatty Community Center Advisory Board. With her support and leadership, they planned the beloved annual Earl Beatty Ball Hockey Tournament, skating parties, pizza nights, Halloween haunted houses, and other events that brought the community together. These efforts enhanced and expanded the effectiveness of the City's small community centre. Her infectious grin, generous spirit, fierce determination and tireless effort, made a huge impact in the lives of a generation of kids who attended Earl Beatty from 1998 until she had to step back in 2013. Even after the onset of her illness, her contributions were notable. No longer the lead organizer, she was still a solid supporter and optimistic encourager.

Every time the Earl Beatty Pool was in danger of closing, she rallied the neighbourhood. Her effective organizing efforts, successfully stopped the service cuts and repeatedly saved this important community service.

New neighbours could count on Liza's warm welcome to the neighbourhood. Old friends relied on her wisdom and wit. She had the courage to speak truth and friends knew they could count on her for honest and realistic advice. Her intelligent, direct and honest approach brought positive resolutions to many difficult situations.

Above all, Liza put her family (Chris, Cameron, and Robin) first but was also known as the "neighborhood mom" for her down to earth and caring personality.

As a result of all that she gave back to the community, Liza was nominated for a Me to We award in 2014 by community members. Her efforts defined an era and her energy inspired a generation. Liza was loved and respected and will be dearly missed.

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

April 1, 2016