

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Josh Matlow

Seconded by: Councillor Janet Davis

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mona Piper on January 31, 2018 at the age of 88.

Keeping children safe at the corner of Millwood and Cleveland for 43 years, Mona was the longest serving crossing guard in Toronto. She was very proud that in all her years of service not a single kid was hurt on her corner while she was on duty. She was recognized by the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Member of Parliament for Toronto - St. Paul's as an Outstanding Neighbour and was recognized for her outstanding career by the Provincial Minister of Education this past September.

Ms. Piper was born on the English Channel Island of Guernsey in 1929. She loved the ocean and recounted swimming every day as a child. The Church of England was a big part of her life.

Unfortunately, her idyllic childhood was interrupted when the German army invaded Guernsey. Like many other children in the Channel Islands, Mona was evacuated and stayed with a foster family in Lancashire until 1946, when the army had finally cleared Guernsey of land mines.

Mona married Leonard Piper shortly after the war. The couple had their first child, Alan, in 1951. They moved to Canada in 1954. The family settled in Toronto and added Ann and John.

They soon became an integral part of the Davisville community. Both Leonard and Mona were Cub Scout leaders at Manor Road United, and were active in the Church. After her husband passed away in 1983, Mona reconnected with the Anglican Church at St. Cuthbert's on Bayview Avenue where she maintained a relationship with the Minister until her passing.

Mona is survived by 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Her granddaughter Cherie was a member of the Canadian Women's National Hockey Team, winning gold medals in 2002, 2006, 2010, and has a star on the Scarborough Walk of Fame.

Her last year were marked by health issues. She spent five months in hospital recovering from a broken leg and a stroke. Unable to perform her crossing guard duties in an official capacity, Mona still protected the neighbourhood children. After returning home from the hospital she sat on her porch, which overlooked the corner where she had worked, watching over local children just as she had for the past 43 years.

Mona passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loved ones, in K Wing of Sunnybrook hospital's palliative care unit. The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Mona Piper's family.

February 1, 2018