



CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Colle

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sarah Leah Cohen on February 5, 2019.

Sarah Leah Cohen was born in Midland, Ontario and moved as a child to Kensington Market. She attended Harbord Collegiate Institute and worked for many years as a typist and clerk at a law office.

Kitty, as she would come to be known, was relentlessly positive and had an infectious zeal for life. She was often asked how she maintained her health and positivity as a centenarian. One of her many theories on the subject was to keep happy and “the way to keep happy is to see before you a picture of joy. Whatever you’re looking at, let it bring you joy.”

Kitty did many things late in life including receiving a Bachelor’s degree in English Literature from York University at 60. A diehard fan of the Toronto Blue Jays she holds the record as the oldest person to ever throw out the first pitch at a game when she was 101. She later asked the team if she could walk the bases. Then Blue Jays Manager John Gibbons helped her bring her dream to life at the age of 103.

Kitty was known for her charitable work with the Princess Margaret Hospital including participating in long distance walks to raise money to fight cancer. At 99, she was profiled in the Globe and Mail as she was about to embark on a more than 20 km walk to fight gynecological and breast cancers. Kitty told the paper “People always ask me, 'What is your secret?' And I just say: 'Keep walking.'”

Kitty is survived by her children Bernice, Shane and Randy as well as six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

February 26, 2019