

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor James Pasternak

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Colle

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Stewart Nanibush on Friday, June 12, 2020.

An avid cyclist, indigenous archivist, and dedicated City of Toronto employee, Stewart made a lasting impact on the greenscapes across the City of Toronto and touched the lives of many Torontonians and residents of the Armour Heights community.

Born in 1954 in Toronto, Stewart spent the early years of his career in London, Ontario, before finally finding his place and community at City of Toronto Parks and Recreation, working there for over 25 years. His connection to nature and the environment, combined with his love of learning, allowed him to try his hand at various Parks and Recreation jobs, and in turn, enabled him to make a mark in just about every corner of the City. Whether it was working in water treatment, conducting ecological restoration in High Park or parks around the Ashbridges Bay, Stewart took great pride in reviving the City's greenscapes. By all accounts, Stewart went above and beyond the description of any job he held. Anytime help was needed, he was there, always willing and eager to assist, to extend his own strength to help those in need. Stewart had a deep connection with the Armour Heights Community through his work at the Armour Heights Community Centre, and whether it was the little things, such as supporting the basketball teams, to assisting the bridge club, or more urgent matters such as the two lives he saved with his CPR and defibrillator training, no task was too big or too small when it came to helping others. But not only is Stewart remembered as having always gone above and beyond, it was his charm and ability to strike up a conversation, and his genuine interest in the lives of those he crossed paths with, that gave him the ability to forge instant and lasting connections.

A big proponent of cycling, Stewart could spend entire days out on his bicycle exploring the beautiful paths and alleyways of his City. He also took pride in building and working on his beloved Peugeot bicycle, building it up from just a frame, and also spending three years building a bike for his daughter, Tara. Though his great loves were cycling, classical music, food, and Anishinaabe spirituality and medicine, his family, friends, and community meant everything to him, and he is described as having protected his family at every hour of every day.

Stewart will be sorely missed by his family and friends, City staff and members of the Armour Heights community. He is remembered as hard-working, kind, caring, thoughtful and friendly, and always with a smile on his face. He was a huge asset to the community, generous to everyone he encountered, and those who knew him always recognized the impact he made, how dedicated and committed he was, and the lasting legacy he will leave behind.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Stewart Nanibush's family and friends.

June 29, 2020