

Expression of Condolence for Walter Gretzky by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Mark Grimes

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of 'Canada's Hockey Dad' Walter Gretzky on March 4, 2021 at the age of 82.

Walter Gretzky will be remembered for his profound influence on the game of hockey and for his devotion to his family.

Walter Gretzky taught his son the "Great One", Wayne Gretzky, his other sons and neighborhood children how to play hockey on the backyard rink that he built. As his children's first coach, he instilled the attributes of love and respect for the game of hockey, along with the mechanics of the sport. These qualities were reflected in Wayne's hockey career and those of his sons Keith and Brent who also played in the National Hockey League.

Walter Gretzky was an avid hockey player in his youth and a keen analyst of the game who stayed connected to hockey throughout his lifetime. He could often be found on the ice, sharing his passion for hockey with players and fans whether they were seasoned veterans or new to the game.

He was also known for his tremendous character and for quietly dedicating much of his time and efforts to many charities that improved the lives of others, particularly children.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his children Wayne, Keith, Glen, Brent and Kim and their families, as well as the many friends and colleagues whose lives he touched.

March 10, 2021