

Expression of Condolence for Jon Harstone by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Ana Bailão

Seconded by: Mayor John Tory

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jon Harstone, a long-time leading voice and champion for affordable housing in our City.

In 1969, Jon began a life time of commitment to affordable and accessible housing for everyone who needed a safe, secure and affordable place to live. Jon's work in the affordable housing sector included time with the Co-op Housing Federation of Toronto, Homestarts, Colandco Cooperative Housing Land Trust and then in 1999 he founded St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society. Thanks to his commitment and legacy thousands of low and moderate income Toronto residents now live in safe, secure, supportive and affordable homes.

Jon was also a devoted historical researcher which took him to many places around the world and closer to home he would lead historical walks of the Trinity Bellwoods community, an area of the City he deeply loved. Jon also served on the Heritage Toronto Board and was the author of a book, "Between the Bridge and the Brewery."

Jon will be deeply missed by his first wife Penelope and their four children Colin, Suzanne, Neil and Rachel as well as his three siblings, Joyce, Alex and Greg. Jon spent most of the past twenty years with Deborah Aaron with whom he shared a deep love of travelling, cycling and culinary experiences.

Jon's deep and abiding commitment to affordable housing in our City was transformational and will be long remembered. Our City has lost one of its most devoted advocates for affordable and accessible housing.

Our thoughts, prayers and condolences are with Jon's family and all who loved him and cherished his wonderful and full life.

February 2, 2022