

Expression of Condolence for Mike Filey by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Jaye Robinson

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mike Filey – celebrated author, journalist and Toronto historian – who passed away on Saturday July 30, 2022. Sadly, Mike passed after a long battle with illness at the age of 80.

Mike was born in Toronto in 1941. He spent his childhood years growing up with his family on Bathurst Street in the same neighbourhood as Honest Ed's department store. Mike attended Palmerston Public School and graduated high school at North Toronto Collegiate Institute. He later earned his diploma in chemical technology from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly known as Ryerson University).

Mike began his career at the Ontario Ministry of Environment before working at the Canadian National Exhibition and later, at Canada's Wonderland. In the early 1970's Mike began working as an organizer for Heritage Toronto, a community organization focused on connecting residents together through the shared history of Toronto.

However, Mike was perhaps best known for his contributions as an avid Toronto historian. From the mid-1970's to 2020 he wrote the column, *The Way We Were*, as a contributor for the Toronto Sun. He was the author of over two dozen books on Toronto history, many of which include photographs from his own collection. Mike also hosted his own radio program, *Mike Filey's Toronto*, on CFZM 740 and through his own Toronto, Then and Now program, led many guided walking tours of the City, detailing its neighbourhoods and history.

In 2009, Mike was awarded the Etobicoke Historical Society's Jean Hilbert Memorial Award for his decades-long contributions as a Toronto historian. Mike will best be remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge of Toronto history, which he shared with politicians, the media, and the public. Mike was one of the City's best-known historians

who used his unique perspective to make Toronto's history relevant and relatable to audiences across the City.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Mike's wife, Yarmila, his brother, Bob as well as family members and friends and the colleagues and Torontonians whose lives he touched through his work.

August 15, 2022