

Expression of Condolence for Queen Elizabeth II by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong

Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, throughout her long and full life demonstrated an unparalleled devotion to her people and duties as Queen of Canada and Head of the Commonwealth.

As the longest serving Sovereign in our history, Her Majesty reigned for more than 70 years as Queen of this country and was at the time of her passing, the longest reigning woman in world history. Over the course of her long relationship with this country, The Queen paid seven visits to Toronto and participated in significant events in the life of this City and country.

Her Majesty became an iconic figure of stability and constancy in a changing world. Over the course of this extraordinary reign, The Queen's sense of duty and devotion to public service was unflagging to the very end. She traveled more than any other monarch, and Canada was the country she most often visited.

Our City has had a long and warm relationship with The Queen beginning in October of 1951 when a young Princess Elizabeth visited Toronto in place of her ailing father, King George VI. During this visit, The Queen and Prince Philip were greeted by excited crowds and experienced a quintessential Toronto tradition – watching a Leafs game at the storied Maple Leaf Gardens.

Her Majesty's first visit to Toronto as our Head of State was in 1959. The Queen and Prince Philip arrived in HMY Britannia, attended the 100th running of the Queen's Plate at Woodbine Racetrack and visited City Hall, where they were shown a preview of the design for the new City Hall. She returned to City Hall in 1973 and 1984, the latter to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Toronto's incorporation. Her Majesty also visited our City in 1997, 2002 and 2010, which was her last visit to Canada that ended in Toronto.

On her visit to Toronto in 1973, The Queen praised our City's diversity while visiting many communities. During her Royal Tour in 1984, she visited Corso Italia, where 20,000 people came out to greet her. Over the years, the Queen has granted royal patronage to many Toronto-based organizations, including the Toronto French School, the Canadian National Exhibition Association and the Queen's Plate.

The Queen will be deeply missed and there are few alive now who have known anyone else as Sovereign. We will be reminded of her through landmarks around our City, including the Queen Elizabeth II Building and Queen Elizabeth Theatre at Exhibition Place, rose gardens named in her honour at Grange Park and at Queen's Park, as well as the Diamond Jubilee Promenade (Front Street between Cherry and Bayview). The City also commemorated The Queen's record reign by planting 70 trees in Rowntree Mills Park this past June to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

Her memory will also live on because of her deep relationship with this Country, Province and City over the years. The extraordinary length of her reign has been remarkable and she has been deeply committed to the Commonwealth as its Head, and from which countries so many of our residents have come.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to His Majesty The King and the members of the Royal Family, as they mourn the loss of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother, as well as joining with all throughout the Commonwealth who are mourning this loss.

September 28, 2022