

***Expression of Condolence for
Herb Pirk by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Brad Bradford

Seconded by: Mayor Olivia Chow

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Herb Pirk on February 16, 2024.

Herb was a proud and engaged Torontonians and a dedicated public servant with a focus on enhancing the City's parks and recreation services. After immigrating from Germany as a child, he grew up in the Beaches and attended Danforth Tech High School.

Herb leaves behind a legacy that can be both seen and experienced through the urban landscape that surrounds us today. At age 33, Herb became the youngest person appointed as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation at the City of Toronto under former Mayor Art Eggleton. Having formed a close bond with the Mayor, Herb had the support to launch new initiatives linking music, art, culture and community gardens into park space. He pushed to make public space physically accessible and ensured that local communities were involved with all Parks and Recreation initiatives. Herb created Park Advisory Groups and Park Stewards and a range of innovative volunteer programs. Herb was committed to expanding Toronto's parkland and providing accessible recreational programming to all Torontonians.

With the support of City Council, Herb oversaw the creation of over 40 acres of new parkland at the Harbourfront, built the Cloud Gardens park at Bay and Adelaide, worked with the community to create the Music Garden at Queens Quay, partnered with the Odette family to build the Toronto Sculpture Garden on King Street East, and oversaw the creation of the iconic Cumberland Park in the heart of Yorkville.

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

March 20, 2024