

Expression of Condolence for Joe Flaherty by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor Shelley Carroll

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Joe Flaherty – comedian, actor, writer, and educator – who passed away on April 1, 2024, at the age of 82.

Joe Flaherty served in the United States Air Force before turning to a career in comedy. He began performing with the original Second City comedy theatre in Chicago. He moved to Canada after seven years in Chicago to help develop Toronto's Second City comedy troupe.

Mr. Flaherty was part of the first generation of Second City Toronto, performing alongside John Candy, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Short, Andrea Martin, and Dave Thomas who all considered him a mentor and teacher. He was a founding member of *Second City Television* and was part of the team that won Emmys in 1982 and 1983 for the show's writing.

Mr. Flaherty was an accomplished actor with performances in cult-classic favourites in film and television. He created memorable roles in series like *Freaks and Geeks* and *Maniac Mansion*, as well as in films like *Happy Gilmore*.

Mr. Flaherty also helped foster the next generation of comedians, founding Humber College's comedy writing and performance program and teaching students in the program. He eventually served as the artistic director and artist-in-residence.

Comedy was at the very heart of how Mr. Flaherty lived, whether through his performances or in his interactions with others. He leaves behind a legacy as someone who helped pioneer and develop Toronto's iconic comedy scene.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy and deepest condolences to Joe Flaherty's wife, Judith; his children, Gudrun and Gabriel; and all those whose lives he touched through his work.

April 17, 2024