

## *Expression of Condolence for Kurt Walter Hering by Toronto City Council*

**Moved by: Councillor Michael Thompson**

**Seconded by: Mayor Olivia Chow**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Kurt Walter Hering, who passed away peacefully in April 2026, just days after celebrating his 100th birthday with family, friends, and neighbours.

Born in Chemnitz, Germany, Kurt immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s after serving as an interpreter for British troops in Austria. Upon arriving in Canada, he began working as a mechanic for Volkswagen Canada and became one of the company's very first employees. His intelligence, professionalism, and strong command of English were quickly recognized, leading him to accompany the Chief Executive on a six-week road trip to help sign distributors for the Volkswagen Beetle.

Kurt went on to build a distinguished career with Volkswagen Canada, serving as Field Service Representative for Eastern Canada and later as National Fleet Sales Manager. His work contributed to the marketing, sales, and distribution of Volkswagen, Porsche, and Audi, leaving a meaningful mark on the automotive industry in Canada.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Kurt was a devoted athlete and lifelong advocate for fitness. He was a member of the Canadian Masters Track and Field Association and, as a senior athlete, was seeded eighth in the world in decathlon. He was also a proud member of the Scarborough Tennis Club and Tam Heather Tennis Club, and enjoyed skiing and golfing. Kurt generously shared his love of sport with his family and inspired those around him through his discipline, energy, and commitment to healthy living.

Kurt also travelled extensively, first through international athletic competitions and later with his beloved wife, Xian, whom he met in Austria in 1988. Following his retirement from Volkswagen Canada in 1991, he was asked by Volkswagen Germany to run its plant in Mexico, where he and Xian lived for three years and embraced the people, culture, and experience.

Kurt lived a long, full, and remarkable life. He was loved, admired, and respected by his family, friends, colleagues, and community. He is survived by his loving wife, Xian; his sons, Curt and Alex; his daughters-in-law, Lisa and Angie; his grandchildren, Kirsten, Meghan, Andrew, Allison, and Austin; and his great-grandchildren, Kayce and Xander.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the Hering family and extended community on Kurt's passing.

May 20, 2026