

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

**TITLE: HONOURING THE LEGACY OF MAX EISEN, AUTHOR,
TEACHER, FRIEND**

FROM:

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, on July 7, 2022, author, public speaker and Holocaust Educator Max Eisen died at the age of 93; and

Whereas, he survived the horrors of Auschwitz, Melk and Ebensee before being liberated on May 6, 1945; and

Whereas, Mr. Eisen was a dedicated contributor to the March of the Living, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion. His was a life dedicated to sharing his experiences with thousands of Canadians across the country; and

Whereas, he served as a teacher with the non-profit human rights organization, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, in its from compassion to action program – an educational journey for Canada's community leaders and policymakers to learn about the Holocaust, racism and intolerance; and,

Whereas, Mr. Eisen was a tireless advocate for Holocaust education, having participated in the March of the Living with thousands of students 18 times. He had a passion for speaking to young people about the importance of eliminating racism and bigotry, visiting countless schools and universities throughout Canada; and

Whereas, his memoirs, *By Chance Alone: A Remarkable True Story of Courage and Survival at Auschwitz*, won the Canada Reads Award in 2019; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is home to thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities and is one of the largest Jewish populations outside of Israel that include many Holocaust survivors, for whom Mr. Eisen served as a symbol of resilience and inspiration; and

Whereas, the City bestowed both the Order of Vaughan and a Key to the City to Mr. Eisen in recognition and appreciation for his remarkable efforts to eliminate racism and bigotry; and

Whereas, the City proclaimed January 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day to commemorate the genocide of more than six million Jews and other groups by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT staff identifies a landmark, including a city park, trail, or other suitable infrastructure to be named in recognition of Max Eisen, followed by a ceremonial unveiling event; and
2. THAT the City proclaim May 6 annually as Max Eisen Day; and
3. THAT the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamation and the event on corporate communications channels.

Attachments

1. Mayor Bevilacqua presents Max Eisen with Key to the City: [News Release](#)
2. Four Residents invested with the Order of Vaughan: [News Release](#)