

# Mayor Krantz has passion for all things Milton



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE  
Gord Krantz celebrates on election night with his granddaughter at his side in 1997.

To say Mayor Gord Krantz is a proud Miltonian would be an understatement.

"As far as I'm concerned, Milton is the centre of the universe," he said.

On his business card is a small map showing the locations of Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Washington — and it bold red print — Milton.

It says a lot about Milton's place in the world in his eyes.

"I always say, there are only two types of people in the world — those of us who are Miltonians and those of us who wish they were," said Mr. Krantz.

Mr. Krantz has lived in the community his whole life, even before it was known as Milton.

"I was never born a Miltonian, but as close as damn is to swearing," he said.

Mr. Krantz was born in the hamlet of Milton Heights in 1937 before the townships formed into what's now known as Milton. His father worked in the Milton Heights brickyard to support Mr. Krantz and his four sisters and two brothers.

He remembers the period shortly after the Second World War when rationing was still a way of life.

"It turned me into a packrat," he said. "It really made me appreciate what I have now."

He also remembers when a sewer system was first introduced to Milton, and recalls the time when the area where Milton Mall is now-located was a farm.

Growing up he had a thirst for knowledge, but attended high school for only a few years then dropped out.

"I was one of these real smart guys who went a year or so to high school, figured I

knew it all and dropped out," he said. "I would never advocate that for anyone, but it didn't hold me back."

"It was a much different era. If you had any ambition at all you could do whatever you wanted at your own pace."

Indeed, a lot has changed in just the time Mr. Krantz has been a public official. Milton only had 6,000 people when he was first elected to public office, and now the population has soared to 55,000 and is still growing.

Mr. Krantz believes in fostering the growth of Milton because he said he doesn't want the young generation to grow up and leave.

"You either go ahead or you slide back," he said. "Long as I'm at the wheel, hopefully Milton will not slide backward."

### Hopes grandkids will stay put

Both his kids and all six of his grandchildren live in Milton, and he hopes that he has created a Milton with enough opportunity that the grandkids will stay put.

He certainly thinks it's a great place to raise a family. He and his wife of 47 years, Olive, raised their family in Milton and he said he wouldn't trade those years for a life anywhere else.

Ms Krantz has been a source of support for Mr. Krantz throughout his career, bringing him his first jar of jellybeans to his office and keeping a collection of clippings chronicling his career from the 1960s forward.

But despite her dedication to her archives, she doesn't care much for her husband's line of work.

"My wife has always supported me, though she's never cared for the business of politics or politicians for that matter — and she'll tell you that," he laughed.

Looking out his office window, Mr. Krantz can see their house — and his white Cadillac with the licence plate 'Town1', another example of his proud Milton-centric attitude.

"Why Town1? Because in my opinion it's the best town in Ontario, and I'm the only one who has Town1," he said.

Outside his intense interest in all things Milton, Mr. Krantz is also a baseball fan who likes to take in the occasional Blue Jays game in his spare time, and he played in a slow pitch league up until a few years ago.

He's also a Charter member of the United Way, and has held charity golf tournaments the last five years to raise money for the charity. Last year, the tournament raised more than \$82,000.

"I want to act as an example," he said. People often ask him when he will retire, and he just shakes his head at the question.

"You may not have noticed, but I retired from (the oil) business 25 years ago," he laughed.

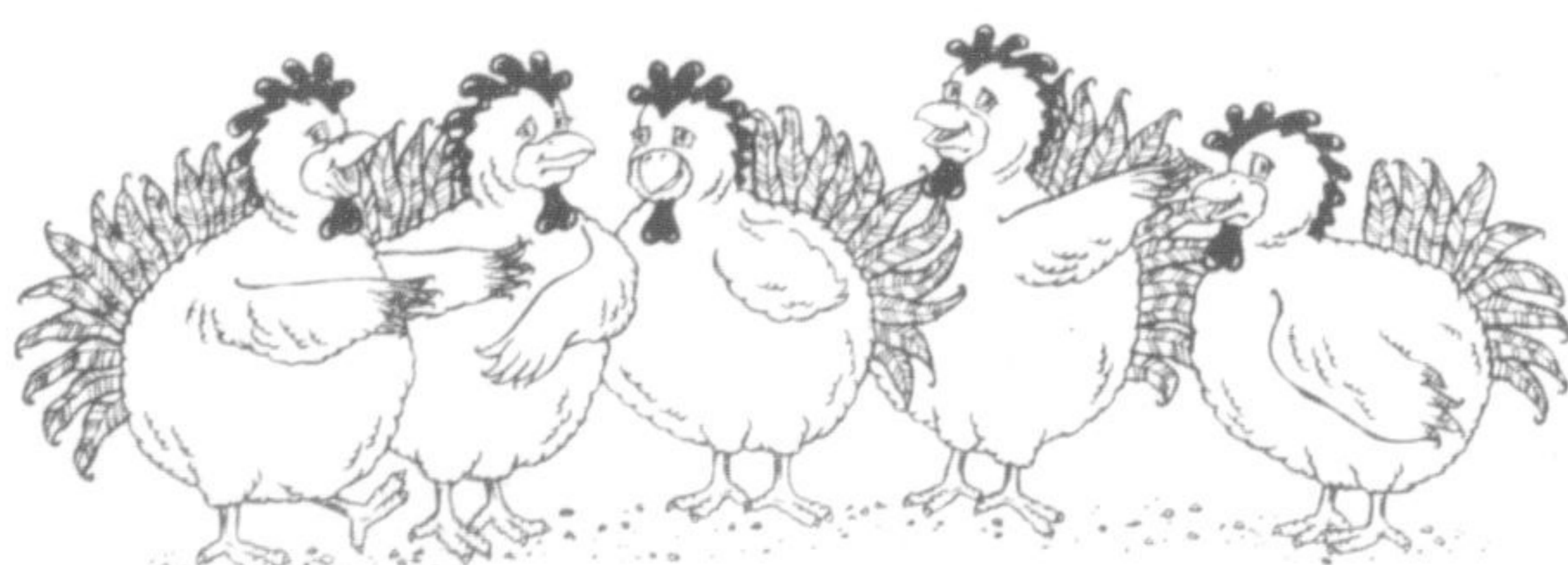
But he knows he'll have to give up the office of the mayor one day, and will have to find something new to dedicate his time and energy to.

"I really don't know what I'll do," he said. "It's one of my biggest fears. You've got to keep yourself busy. Even if I have two or three nights off in a row I'm wandering my house like I'm lost. I can only imagine me being home all the time after being so active for so many years."



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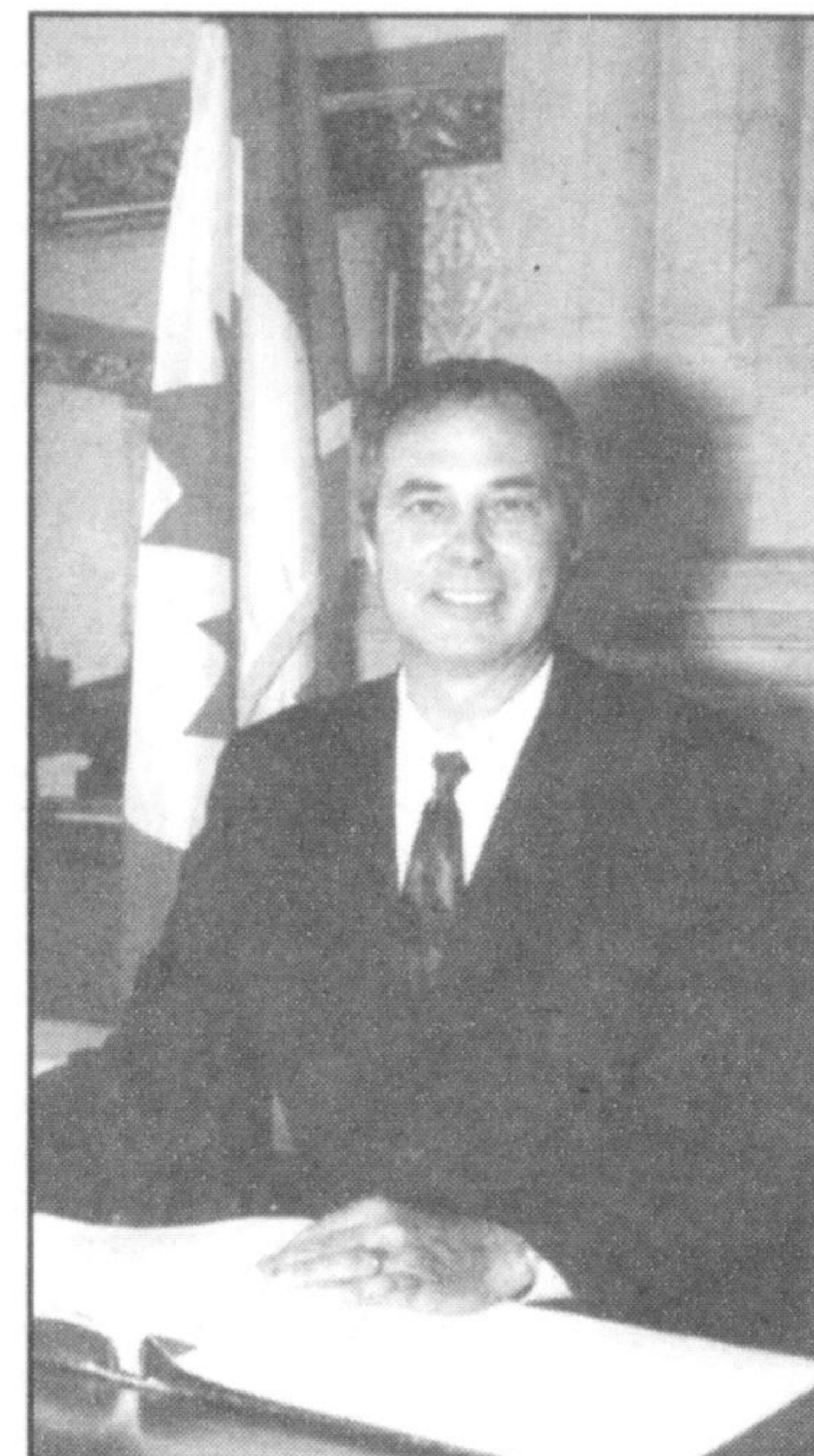
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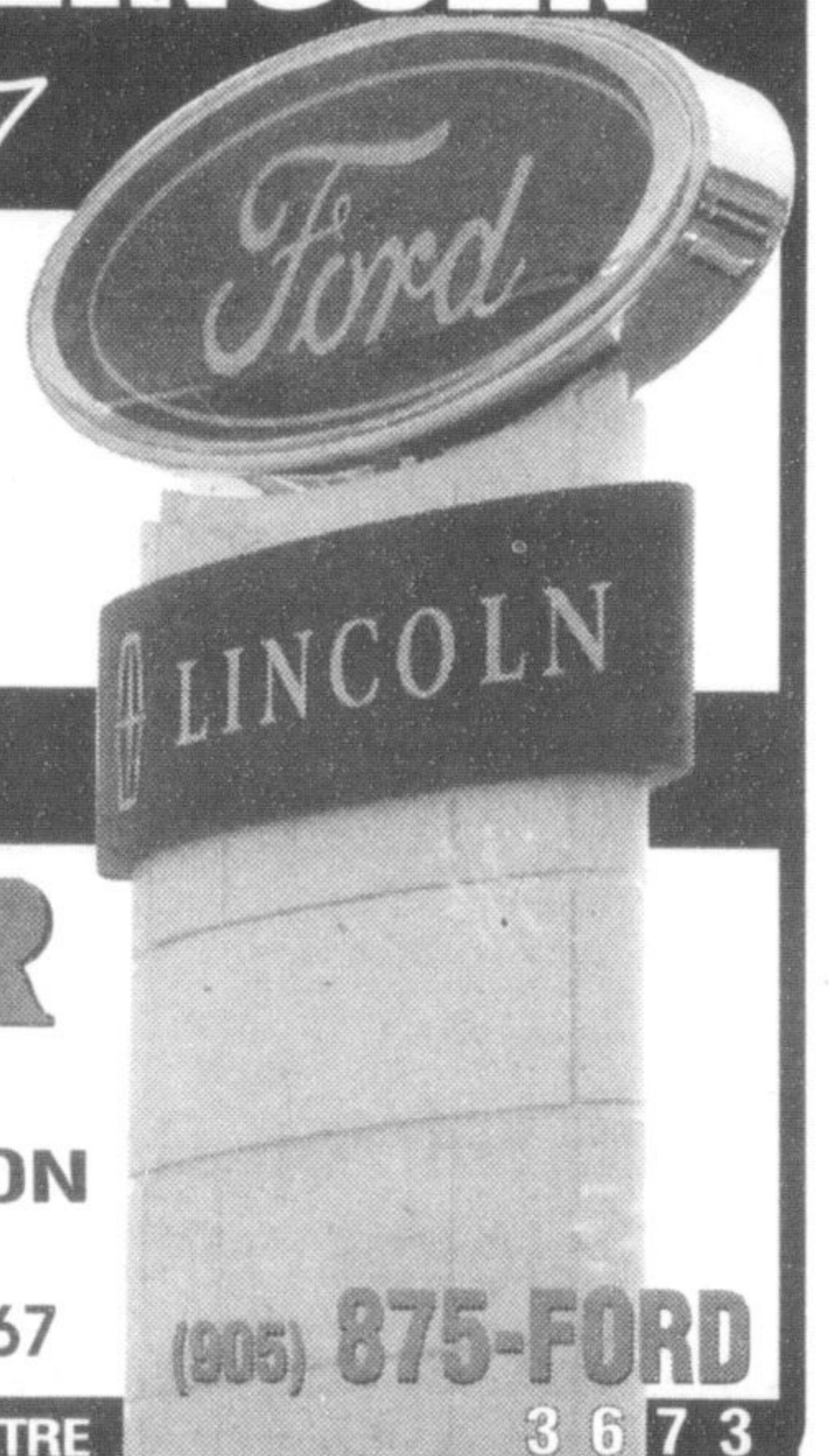
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