

**Mike Ledwith** *continued from page 22*

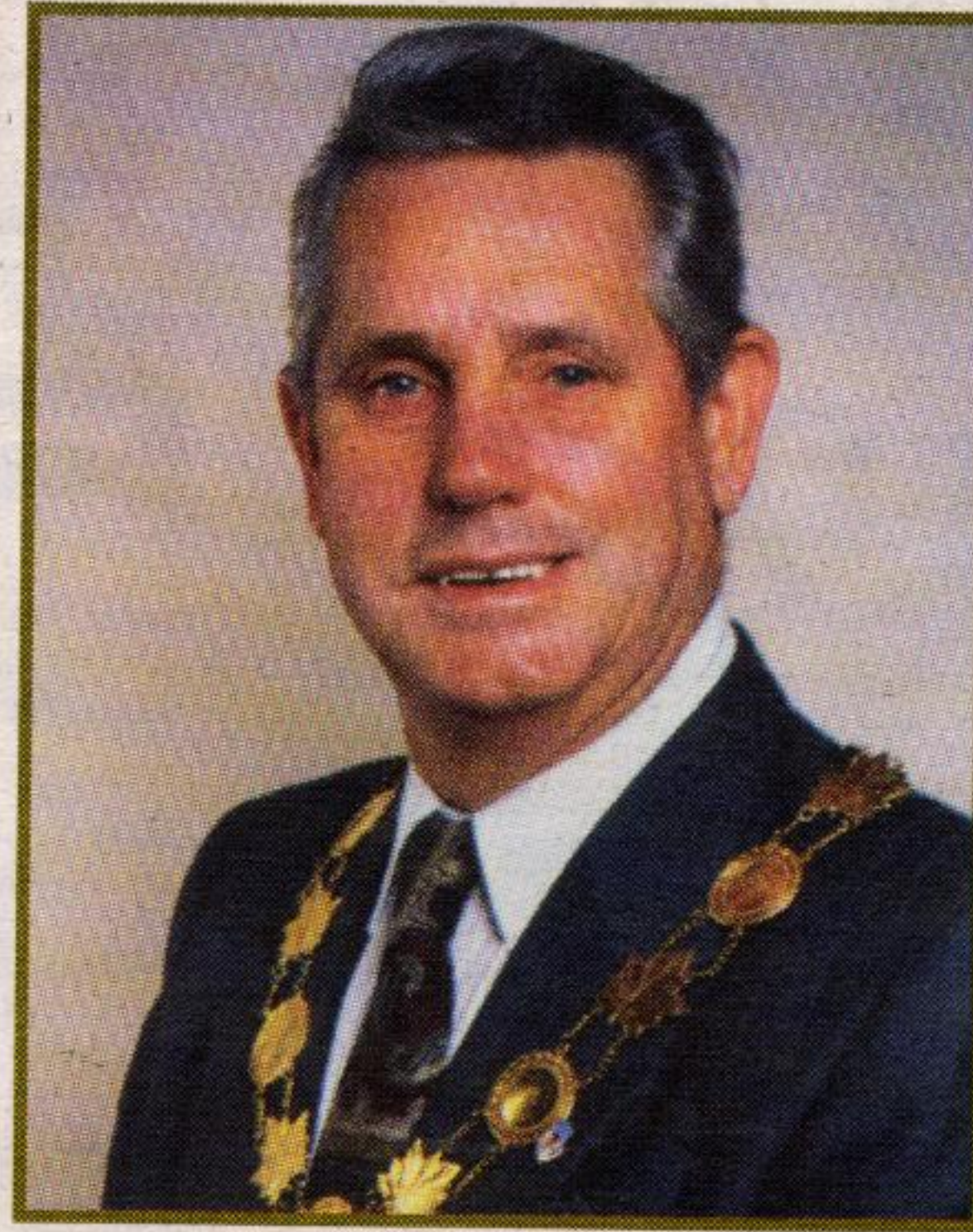
spearheaded the campaign to raise the \$65,000 necessary to build the Rotary Pool in 1962 and 1963. He has been accoladed with various Citizen of the Year Awards, Lifetime Achievement Awards and as part of the Halton Business Hall of Fame from such agencies as the Royal Canadian Legion, the Milton Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and the Oakville and Milton Real Estate Board.

Aside from his volunteer efforts Mr. Ledwith also has an extensive history of public service. He was elected to the Public School Board for five consecutive years and helped to scout the location and buy the land for J.M. Denyes Public School. He is Milton's only living past Mayor, having been elected to the position in 1957, the year of the Town of Milton's centennial. He was deeply involved in the centennial planning, despite being a recent widower with three small children. As part of the advertising for the centennial celebrations, Mr. Ledwith and a group of others borrowed an old stagecoach from the TTC Museum and paraded it, along with six girls in period costume, up and down the Main Streets of over 20 neighbouring communities. When in Toronto he paraded past the Simpson's Building, where the woman he was seeing, Vera, worked. He laughs as he recalls the way Vera astonished her co-workers, telling them she was going down to the street to kiss that attractive man. Mike and Vera were married later that same year.

The advertising was surprisingly effective, drawing over 5,000 people to Milton over the five days of centennial celebrations. The centennial committee sent invitations to all the Mayors of Miltons worldwide, an initiation that was accepted by the Mayor of Milton, Delaware. "He participated in everything that went on. He was particularly pleased that we included an American flag in the fireworks display." Milton returned the favour when Mr. Ledwith travelled to Delaware later that year to help celebrate their 150th year anniversary. "I still exchange Christmas cards with people I met there," he admits. He plans to travel to Delaware once again in 2007 to help celebrate their bi-centennial. He also laughingly plans to still be around for Milton's bi-centennial in 2057, to fulfill the tradition of honouring Milton's past mayors. "In 1957 we had 10 past mayors on the stage... Of course, in 2057, I'll be the only living past mayor on that stage because Gord will still be Mayor."

Mike and Vera Ledwith reside in an apartment that affords them a panoramic view of the Town that they have been such an instrumental part of forming. It is people like Mike Ledwith that form the foundation for a successful community to thrive and evolve. "I enjoy working with people, ... but I also know that Milton is the greatest place in the world for volunteers for any situation. I don't think that there is any other place like it."

Re-elect  
**Gord Krantz**



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