



Graham Paine/Metroland

Mayor Gord Krantz, above, shows his support for the victims and families of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash that claimed the lives of 16 members of the Saskatchewan team April 6. The mayor donned a Milton Winterhawks jersey as part of a nation-wide jersey day campaign. Left: Residents put hockey sticks outside their homes to honor the team, including at this Martin St. property.

Grant to donate Humboldt's winnings to Saskatchewan player assistance program

It remains to be seen if handicappers will make Miltonian Brad Grant's horse their betting choice, but his four-year-old pacer will no doubt be an emotional favourite this spring.

Humboldt's winnings in the coming weeks will be donated to the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League player assistance program, in light of the recent tragedy of the Humboldt Broncos.

"I know Bill Chow from the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League and I'm involved with the Ontario Hockey Association and then I have a horse named Humboldt," said Grant, a former owner of the Milton Jr. A Merchants, who's still active on the league's board

of directors. "I thought what a great connection and maybe we can help use it to generate some funds for the program Bill and his group have put in."

In fact, Grant will be donating all of Humboldt's winnings from the next month to the cause. And that could end up being a sizeable donation given the horse's track record. Purchased at a sale in New Jersey in January, Humboldt has a win and five top-three finishes in six starts this season.

The player assistance program will provide mental health assistance and counselling for all players in the SJHL. The SJHL has announced that any extra funds raised for the player

assistance program will go into an education plan in memory of the lives lost.

"I'm a firm believer, in health and well-being," said Grant, the chairman of the Ontario Hockey Association. "I thought it was quite ironic with me being involved in hockey, knowing the people and owning this horse, so I thought why not see if we can do it this way and get some other people on board and do some more good."

Grant is encouraging others in the racing community to join him in raising funds. He is also extending an open invitation to the winner's circle should Humboldt win any of his starts this month.

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