



Photos by DEREK WOOLLAM, except top photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Above, Mayor Gord Krantz with the help of his gala sponsors holds up a cheque for more than \$120,000 destined for the Chamber of Commerce Community Legacy Fund. The money was raised through sponsorship of the mayor's 25-year gala at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club Saturday night. At right, the mayor is piped in to start the event. Bottom right, Peter Duffus, fundraising chair, thanks the sponsors.

# Krantz says it's such great honour to serve community

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cares passionately about the future of Ontario and Canada.

Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day — who's served on council with Mr. Krantz the 25 years he's been mayor — told the crowd that of all the mayor's good qualities he respects and admires, his favourite is how he chairs a meeting.

He explained Mr. Krantz makes sure those who come to speak to council feel welcome and that everyone gets a fair hearing.

"Gord is a champion at it, I assure you," he said.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion — who's been a mayor for 27 years, two years longer than Mr. Krantz — then took the stage, commending him for the "great job" he's done.

"The citizens are proud of you," she told Mr. Krantz, adding the greatest tribute paid to any politician is by the residents they serve.

On a lighter note, she joked that behind every successful mayor is a woman, referring to Mr. Krantz's wife.

She told the audience she's enjoyed working with Mr. Krantz over the years.

"We've had a wonderful career together," she said.

The evening also included a song Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis — more commonly known as Canada's Singing Priest — wrote about Mr. Krantz, in which he refers to him as "Milton's pride."

Dennis Durante, whose father is a

long-time friend of Mr. Krantz, then reminisced about his days as a young boy when the mayor would come over to his house for a game of euchre with his dad.

He joked that while the mayor may be called names like 'Your Worship' nowadays, there were names he was called after a particular card game when he lost that "can't be repeated."

He summed up by saying that Mr. Krantz has "done Milton proud."

"I hope that there's a school, park, casino or some other landmark named in your honour to acknowledge your great career," he said.

### Family members speak

Speeches from Mr. Krantz's family members finished off the night. His son, Dave, spoke of when he was a child looking up to his father, thinking he wanted to drive a truck and become a firefighter just like him.

He described how Mr. Krantz was always running out the door in the middle of the night to help someone, whether it was with his fuel truck or a fire truck.

"I always thought he's Superman," said Dave.

Mr. Krantz's sister Brenda gave an emotional speech on behalf of all the mayor's siblings, saying while it's his silver anniversary as mayor, he's "such a gold star brother."

"We're so proud of you. Your mom and dad would be so filled with pride and admiration," she said. "We love you."

His brother Bob then took the stage, noting that Mr. Krantz has always been the talker in the family while he's been the fighter.

"I would fight to the death for him," he said, his voice cracking with emotion.

Then it was time for a few words from Olive, who Mr. Krantz referred to as his "boss."

"If anybody has a spare bedroom, he may need it," she joked.

She said she thinks her husband has done a very good job serving as Milton's mayor.

"But maybe I'm prejudiced," she added.

Mr. Krantz said it's been an honour and a pleasure to serve the community.

"I take my job very, very seriously," he said, noting he wouldn't have it any other way.

Before the night was over, Mr. Krantz was named Milton's first honorary fire chief, receiving an old-fashioned chief hat from Milton Fire Chief Larry Brassard.

The 25th anniversary event also raised more than \$120,000 for the Milton Chamber of Commerce Community Legacy Fund, which will be used to maintain, improve and/or create a new landmark in Mr. Krantz's name.

It was declared to be the most successful dinner/fundraiser event in the history of the town.

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