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Saying goodbye

Family, friends pay their respects to former mayor, community leader

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

He'll be remembered as a gentleman, a joker and a giver. But most of all, former mayor and community leader Mike Ledwith will be remembered for the love he had for his family.

"The first thing he wanted to talk about was his wonderful grandchildren," said St. Paul's United Church's Rev. John Benham at yesterday's funeral service for Ledwith, 86, who passed away Saturday at Allendale.

Testaments to this love were delivered by friends and family members in between some of Ledwith's favourite hymns, sung by attendees and the St. Paul's church choir, of which he was a member.

His seven grandchildren, several of whom broke down or had to pause to collect themselves, painted a picture of a man who was deeply involved in each of their lives, even when thousands of miles separated them.

The teens and young adults shared humorous memories ranging from Ledwith enjoying a spirited game of laser tag — and shooting everyone, even those on his own team — to Ledwith giving his grandson headlocks as a kid.

But most of all, there was story after story of Ledwith taking pride in his grandchildren's accomplishments, whether waterskiing, the birth of a child or attending medical school.

Even as a young child, it was apparent to Tara Kay that her grandfather was a well-respected man in the community.

"I always had such pride in the fact I was

• see LEDWITH on page A4



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

The casket of Mike Ledwith, former mayor and respected community member, is carried out of Grace Anglican Church by pallbearers (his grandchildren) led by St. Paul's United Church ministers Rev. John Benham and Rev. Sarah Fanning.

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