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Mayor's

Mavor Gord Krantz is often spotted at local shops and businesses, cutting the ceremonial ribbon at grand openings. He represents this community — his home — with great fervour and is always available for a grip and grin.

Choosing just one photo of the mayor to grace the cover of this special Champion section proved too difficult. So we turned to Mosaically to created a mosaic of His Worship, using more than a hundred photos snapped around town over the course of the last several years.

Krantz a man true to his word

Over the past couple of weeks, I've had the pleasure of compiling interesting tidbits and writing several stories about the man of the hour, Mayor Gord Krantz.

The head of Milton council is celebrating quite a milestone this week as he becomes the longest serving mayor of a major municipality in Canada, surpassing former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion.

As part of this special section on Krantz in today's Champion, we asked his long-time colleagues and council members to submit their favourite memory of the mayor stories I've greatly enjoyed reading. It got me thinking back over the professional relationship I've had with Krantz since I covered my first Milton Council meeting in June 2004.

I was on the political beat at a couple of other community newspapers before this and knew that mayors aren't always excited to see the press coming, particularly on controversial topics.

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Melanie Hennessey Champion Reporter

But I learned very quickly that Mayor Krantz is different. In fact, there's nobody else like him.

He has a "door is always open" policy with the public, and I think it's fair to say he extends the same grace to the media as well.

He has, without fail, always returned my phone calls, answered the tough questions in a respectful way, made himself available on short notice for an interview or photo, and even invited me into his home for a chat with him and wife

I recently sat down with Krantz for an interview and asked him about his approach to the media. Here's what he had to say:

"I always avail myself to the media. I've never got a call from the media yet and thought, 'Awww, crap.' I'll always call back. Making yourself accessible to the media is important because that's how the message gets out there. And if you're going to be in public life, transparency is so important. I don't try to sweep anything under the carpet or try to ignore it."

He is a man true to his word, even if his word isn't always popular. I can recall a couple interviews with Krantz where I thought, 'Ooohhh, people aren't going to like hearing that!

But he's never asked to be off the record. He's got nothing to hide. And as everyone tries to put their finger on Krantz's key to success over all these years, I can't help but think this transparency has played a huge part.

His humble approach to the community has also made him very popular. I've seen the mayor interact with hundreds of residents over the years and not once has he brushed them off or acted like he's above them.

In fact, if you didn't know he was the mayor, you'd think he was just another resident attending an event — particularly when he shows up in his trademark coveralls and rubber boots.

He makes time for every person who wants to speak with him and treats him or her with the utmost respect. He even took my jacket for me during my most recent visit to his office.

We asked colleagues and fellow council members to describe the mayor in one or two words — no easy feat, given the long list that popped to mind when I put ...50



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Bv Melanie Hennessev CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

unny. Charismatic. A gentleman. Genuine. Pragmatic. Mr. Milton.

There are many ways that those closest to Mayor Gord Krantz may describe him. But if you ask the longtime head of Milton Council how he would define himself, he'll tell you, "I'm just a simple old country boy."

And that he is as well. Born and raised in Milton Heights, Krantz has gone from living the simple life to running Canada's fastest-growing municipality.

And now, this 79-year-old country boy is on the verge of adding another distinction to his repertoire of defining characteristics: the longest-serving mayor of a major city in Canada.

But many may be surprised to find out that he never intended to serve as a politician in the first place, let alone be setting a record as one.

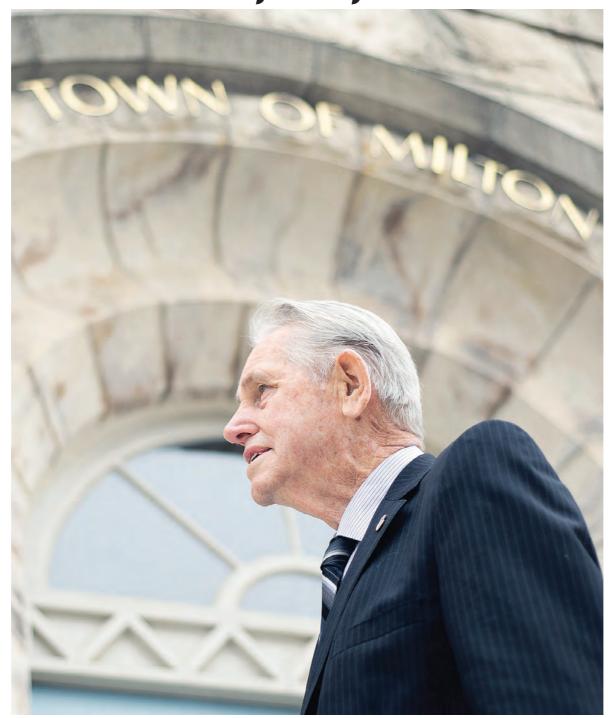
t all began about 50 years ago in a local barbershop, where Krantz said he was "mouthing off" about local politics. Someone suggested that if Krantz thought he could do a better job, perhaps he should run for council.

So he did. And he was hooked.

"I swear sometimes politics is like an addiction," he said from his cozy office at Milton's historic Town Hall. "You have to like it, and you can't be afraid of a little criticism because it's going to come your way whether you like it or not."

Adding in his trademark tongue-incheek fashion, Krantz noted, "The only perfect person on the face of this earth was the good Lord himself, and they crucified him. I have no damn intention of being crucified, and I have no intention of being perfect."

And it may well be that relatable imperfection that has led to Krantz's re-election over and over as Mil-



Mayor Gord Krantz stands in front of Town Hall. While he didn't set out to become a politician, Krantz was hooked the moment he was elected to office — at first as a councillor and then as mayor, a position he has held for 36 years. Franki Ikeman / Special to the Champion

ton's mayor for the past 36 years. Throughout his decades in public life, the mayor has strived to just be

a regular old Miltonian, forgoing the bells and whistles that sometimes come with holding a major political office. He can be spotted driving himself around town, whether to an official event or just to the grocery right in to a messy situation.

"I do things a bit outside the box," he said. "People don't want some on stuffed shirt politician, and I don't < either. I don't think of myself as any better or worse than anyone else. Not this guy — what you see is Substituted at " what you get."

rantz was born in 1937 and grew Nup in Milton Heights alongside ក្ four sisters and two brothers.

Tour sisters and two brothers.

During his teenage years, he played with his fellow "country kids" in the local baseball league on the Milton-Brick team. It was then that he met § his wife, Olive, who was friends with one of his sisters and came out to watch the games.

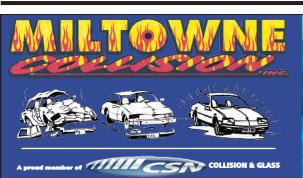
The two started dating, frequenting the two restaurants that were in Milton at the time. They married in § 1958 and settled down in a house 3 on Main Street, going on to have two children. (The Krantzes now also have six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.)

While Krantz started out working for Trinidad Leaseholds in the oil sales field, he soon decided to open his own oil business and managed to amass a customer base of 400 to 450 customers.

In 1960, Krantz joined the local fire department and proceeded to move through the ranks over his 21year tenure to ultimately become a captain. He even had the chance to serve briefly with his son, Dave.

He was officially sworn in a member of council in November 1965 and continued to serve as a councillor for 15 years before being elected mayor for the first time in 1980.

While Milton has had its share of growing pains over the years — and Krantz has taken some heat for it — the mayor expressed no regrets for being elected way back in the 1960s as a council- 50



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Hurricane Hazel tips her hat to Mayor Krantz

By Melanie Hennessey CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The day has finally come: Milton Mayor Gord Krantz is officially becoming the longest-serving mayor in Ontario and the longest-serving mayor of a major city in Canada.

It's a title that's long been held by nowretired Hazel McCallion, who served as Mississauga's mayor from 1978 to 2014. Today (December 1), he will tie McCallion's 36-year reign, and tomorrow he will surpass it.

But in speaking with the spry 95-yearold, it's evident that she's happy to turn the accolades over to the leader of her neighbouring municipality.

"I wish him well and I hope he continues (to serve as mayor). Milton has grown and he's grown with it," McCallion told the Champion. "I've always found him very level-headed and have enjoyed working with him. I think he has a common sense approach to things and is very practical — that, to me, has been his success."

The two veteran mayors have worked

together many times over the years, including on a trade mission to China, but one example of collaboration that came to mind for both was when they initiated a land transfer deal, where a portion of Milton on the east side of Hwy. 407 was transferred to Mississauga.

Common sense

"He and I did it in a friendly way, which is the way it should be done," said Mc-Callion. "That's what's lacking today is common sense dealing with issues."

Beyond his common sense approach, what is it about Milton's mayor that makes residents want to continue electing him?

According to McCallion, it's his strong work ethic and people skills.

"Obviously he likes to be around people, like I do," said McCallion. "For my success, I worked very hard and built a big city. It's about working hard and being happy to be around your people. And Gord is that way — he's very friendly, and people love him."

She noted that Krantz has always been very supportive and fostered a good working relationship between Milton and Mississauga, which has also extended to the people of both communities.

"There's a lot of friendship between the people of Milton and Mississauga," said

When asked to describe Krantz in one word, which seems almost impossible given the length of his political career, McCallion summed him up in two.

"He's a kind and gentle man."

Back at Milton Town Hall, the modest mayor is taking his new title as the longest-serving Ontario mayor in stride.

Humble

"It was never honestly part of my bucket list to surpass Hazel, contrary to popular belief," he remarked. "I still think of myself as a humble individual."

And while McCallion may have retired, she still has a place in Krantz's office at least the bobble-head doll version of the Mississauga mayor, which joins the collection of memorabilia on a shelf behind his desk.

"She'll always be looking over my shoulder," quipped Krantz.



Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Hazel McCallion, who served as mayor of neighbouring Mississauga from 1978 to 2014. Photo courtesy of the Town of Milton

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Clockwise from top left, Mayor Gord Krantz wears his coveralls and rubber boots to brush off snow from the bell adjacent to Town Hall. Krantz and his wife Olive share a kiss on the night he was first elected Mayor of Milton in 1980. Krantz has his own figurine, created locally using a 3D printer. Krantz and Olive smile for the camera next to a bust of the mayor. Krantz rides the rail. Photos courtesy of the Town of Milton and the Champion's own archives











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He's said it before and he'll say it again...

Mayor Gord Krantz is well versed at discussing issues affecting this great town.

Over the years, Town staff have documented some of Krantz's most famous lines.

Here's a list of mayorisms – by category – as submitted by Milton's Communications and Marketing Advisor Hazel Carlin:

Budget, financial accountability,
financial responsibility

When it comes to budget, I've got a short arm and deep pockets.

Let me hear the rustle of bills, rather than the jingle of change.

- the jingle of change.

 The buck stops here.

 Need to decide between needs and wants.

- · I'm not about growing the bureaucracy and I'm not about cherry-picking either.

Truthfulness

- I can tell you what you want to hear or I can
- I can tell you what you want tell you the truth.
 I can tell you the truth or I can you want to hear. You decide. • I can tell you the truth or I can tell you what

Getting consensus

· Like herding cats...



Mayor Gord Krantz, pictured sitting at his desk at Town Hall, has a few go-to phrases he uses. Staff at Town Hall have kept a running log of Krantz's mayorisms over the years. Franki Ikeman / Special

• Like nailing JELL-O to the wall.

Being heard and seen

• Ladies and gentlemen, you know I don't • You ain't seen nothin' yet! need a microphone.

• You know I never shy away from a camera.

The future

- The best is yet to come!

There are two kinds of people:

there are those of us who are Miltonians and those that want to

be Miltonians.

- You don't know where you are going if you don't know where you have been.
- If I could wave my magic wand what would you ask for?
- · Going to head down to the barber and get them to take some of the grey ones out.

Being a Miltonian

• There are two kinds of people: there are those of us who are Miltonians and those that want to be Miltonians.

Being a politician

• I've been told what you do and where to go on more than one occasion.



Dear Mayor Krantz,

On behalf of the entire university community I extend our sincere congratulations on your remarkable accomplishment of becoming Ontario's longest-serving mayor. The passion you exhibit for your community and your steadfast dedication to the residents of Milton is unparalleled and deserves our celebration and thanks.

Your unwavering determination to foster a university presence in the Town of Milton is one of the many ways you have demonstrated deep commitment to the prosperity of your community. Our partnership with you in pursuing this dream continues to be a very positive one, and we cannot thank you enough for your enthusiasm and support over the years.

The Laurier community is fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with you over the past eight years and we are proud and privileged to join with many others in celebrating your exceptional contributions.

Warmest congratulations!

Max Blouw, PhD PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR WILERID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

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The anatomy of a good thumbs up



Most Miltonians will know that Mayor Gord Krantz's famous photo op pose involves a good, old-fashioned thumbs up.

Let's take a closer look at the anatomy of a perfect thumbs up:

- An award-winning smile to celebrate the occasion
- A nice, straight thumb to show your enthusiasm
- Diamond-studded initial ring to let everyone know who's boss
- A perfectlypositioned hand
 that doesn't cover
 your face

Briefly speaking The Champion asked those closest to Mayor Gord

The Champion asked those closest to Mayor Gord Krantz to describe him in two words or less...

Approachable
Goodsport
Oragmatic Charismatic
Sensible Grandfather
Dedicated Father Great Honest
attitude Firefighter Formidable
Husband Businessman Fair
Supercalifragilistic expialidocious
Ohoto-op Mayor Genuine
Charming Hospitable Funny
Trustworthy Mr. Milton Determined
Gentleman
Hometownproud



Indira Naidoo-HarrisMPP Halton

Congratulations Mayor Krantz on this significant milestone!

For 36 years, he has worked tirelessly for this community and has dedicated his life to being the voice of Milton residents. He is now the longest-serving mayor in all of Canada. What an achievement! Mayor Krantz can be proud of a long list of accomplishments and a career devoted to serving the people of Milton. I would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication and for making our town the best possible place to live, work, and raise a family. Congratulations and thank you, Mayor Krantz.



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Scrapbooks document ongoing political career

lor on a pro-growth platform.

"I did have a degree in a common sense, and I knew that if we were going to move forward, we couldn't just stay stagnant," he said. "You've got to be moving progressively ahead, and the only way to move ahead in society in Canada or North America is growth."

While his list of accomplishments as a politician over the decades is certainly a lengthy one, Krantz said he's most proud to have run the municiton's tax rate among the lowest in the GTA.

So what does Krantz think his key to success has been over all of these years?

"Being open, as cliché as it might sound," he said. "You have to be open, honest and right up front. When people come through this door here, I say you've got one of two options — I can tell you what you want to hear, or I can tell you the truth. Your choice. They might not like to hear it (the truth), but they're going to get it from me."

While most likely haven't met Krantz's devoted wife, Olive, as she "doesn't care for the limelight," the mayor said she has always been very supportive of his political career.

She has turned the basement of their King Street home that looks onto Town Hall into what's jokingly referred to as the "Krantz museum," with every wall covered in pictures of the mayor with his various council colleagues over the years, framed declarations of office, old 'Krantz for mayor' election signs and firefighting memorabilia. A large cabinet houses volumes upon volumes of scrapbooks that she's compiled over the decades that document Krantz's political career.

Olive's touches have even spilled over into his office at Town Hall, where the famous jelly bean jar she gave him on December 1, 1980 his first day as mayor — still sits today, full of fresh jelly beans.

"You can imagine how many jelly beans have gone through that jar with the amount of kids I have come through my office," he said, referring to the school tours he helps guide at Town Hall. "That jar has been here for as long as I've been."

Krantz's office is full of other unique collectibles, such as his "Mayor Bear" — a bear dressed up in a suit and chain of office that he received at a grand opening of an arts and crafts shop 20 years ago.

"I have trouble with the mayor bear from time to time," quipped Krantz with a smile. "I have to send him home sometimes because I don't want us to be dressed the same."

He has since added a small scroll to Mayor Bear's hands so that he can tell children who pass through, "If the mayor can graduate, so can you."

n the eve of the mayor's big Omilestone, one question is on everyone's minds — will he run again in the 2018 election?

"If I had to make the decision today, I probably would. I've been blessed with reasonably good health. I still have the energy for the job and I still like what I do," he said. "But the election is two years away. I've always been fair to the public, so they'll know where I stand six months prior to any election."

For now, Krantz is content navigating the good ship Milton as it heads into the waters of even more growth, always striving to keep the best of town and country for his

"My Milton family is growing all the time. It's grown from 4,000 people to 130,000 people," he remarked. "But Milton still has that small-town feel and effect, and it's not artificial. It's the people who make it work. "We're all in this together."

The poster boy for Milton

myself through the same exercise.

There are so many fitting words, but I think my favourite came from Councillor Colin Best, who's known the mayor since he was just a child: "Mr. Milton."

Krantz and Milton are practically synonymous words, so I thought it was a very fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his life to this town and sings its praises unendingly. He's Milton's poster boy, spreading word of how great the community is as he travels about in his Lincoln adorned with the iconic licence plate, 'TOWN 1.' And if the licence plate doesn't let you know how he feels, he'll be quick to tell you that, "Milton is the number one town."

So congratulations, Mr. Mayor, on reaching such a momentous milestone with nothing but class and grace. You've exemplified what it is to be a man of the people and put Milton in the history books for all the right reasons.



Congratulations Mayor Gord Krantz Thank you for your many years of service & accomplishment!



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Thank You **Mayor Gord Krantz**



For 36 years of service to the Town of Milton and your support for Halton Women's Place.

> From All the Staff at Halton Women's Place

A life without violence is the only life to live... The Champion invited members of Milton Council, business leaders and local residents to share their favourite memory of/with Mayor Gord Krantz. Here's what they had to say:



The mayor and I have been together for 60 years. On weekends, we used to get together with a bunch of guys to play euchre and we would go home late, in the (early hours of the) morning. At about 2 o'clock, he would say, 'Guys, I've got to go — I have to go out in the morning.' He was very dedicated. All in all, he was and is still a wonderful man.

Mario Durante • Lifelong friend

One of the first events I attended when first elected to council in 1996 was a tree planting for Conservation Halton. I showed up wearing a sports coat with shirt and tie, which I thought was appropriate considering my position. Low and behold the mayor arrives wearing his FINA coveralls and rubber boots — coveralls and boots you can still see him wearing today.

Rick Malboeuf • Ward 4 Councillor



I have known the mayor since I was eight years old when he was elected to council with my father in 1965. One of the earliest projects the mayor and I worked on was the purchase and restoration of the new Town Hall. This is one of the mayor's lasting legacies, preserving the best of the past and planning for the future.

Colin Best • Local & Regional Councillor



I remember receiving a phone call from the mayor explaining he was unable to travel to Santa Maria to sign our Sister City accord. He asked, would I like to go and did I need time to consider it? My answers were 'yes' and 'no'. Gord shares the spotlight. Whenever he is asked to speak at a gathering, Gord always recognizes his colleagues on Council.

Cindy Lunau • Ward 3 Councillor



In 1999 I had the privilege to travel to the Philippines with the Mayor and Mario Belvedere on a CEDA exchange program. We spent 12 days together and it was during that trip that I saw many qualities that Gord possesses. He is a consummate politician, skilled speaker able to connect with everyone and a fine man. I am honoured to call him my friend.

Sandy Martin • Retired Chamber ED

I was driving with my father along Main Street. It was raining and the visibility was poor...We saw an older gentleman with overalls and rain boots on the side of the street. "Pull over and see if he needs help," my dad suggested... Upon coming out we realized the gentleman was no other than Mayor Krantz, who was fixing up his re-election sign.

Zeeshan Hamid • Ward 8 Councillor



Thank you Mayor Krantz for making Milton a place to call our home.



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Mayor Gord Krantz



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CONGRATULATIONS

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