

Local History. Bk.

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Five generations of building

Real Big. RB



Grant Clarkson comes from a Mississauga family which goes back five generations to the very first settlements in this area.

The Clarkson name is indelibly tied to Mississauga. In fact, the Clarkson area of the city has been known by that name for more than a century, long before the name of Mississauga was even being used.

Grant Clarkson, who has served in just about every municipal government post possible, is part of that family which goes back to the very beginnings of settlement of this area.

Coming from the family which now goes back five generations, Grant became an engineer by profession but he never ceased tilling the soil of the Clarkson farm just off Britannia Rd. which is still being worked by his son, Philip.

After World War II, Clarkson came back to work on the farm but he was attracted by the need to put some kind of rationale to the planning of what is now Mississauga, but was then known as Toronto Township.

Along with a group of people led by Tony Adams, the Toronto Township Planning Board was formed with Clarkson as a founding member. Adams was the first chairman and Clarkson was the second. elected deputy reeve and finally reeve of the Town of Mississauga just before

what are they doing now?

amalgamation and regionalization on Jan. 1, 1974.

While he was doing all of that and running a highly successful career as an engineer, Clarkson had been serving on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

He was subsequently appointed chairman of the CVCA by the province and

Eventually, this led to a subsequent election as the councillor for Toronto Township's Ward 4. He was to serve the township faithfully during the Bob Speck years sitting on almost every committee for more than a decade and then being steered the authority through probably its greatest period of expansion. Projects in-

cluded creation of parks along the Credit, extensive floodplain work, and of course, the waterfront plan.

With his family grown and a successful business career behind him Clarkson decided to "retire" although he still puts in 12 to 14 hours per day and still keeps his hand in the engineering end.

A meeting was held in Clarkson's recreation room about a decade ago to discuss setting up some sort of program to help handle crippled and handicapped children receiving treatment and aid in learning.

Years of hard work have resulted in the creation of the Credit Valley Crippled Children Centre. Clarkson is still involved chairing the meetings and working to develop even a brighter future.

One thing Clarkson and his wife are doing is globe trotting and enjoying all the things they had to forgo during the municipal years.

"I still want to get in and see Russia and China," he says, and looking on the past track record of accomplishment, it won't be long until the Clarksons are packing their bags.

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CLARKSON, Grant