

Obituary

Heritage was his passion

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By JOHN STEWART
Staff

Grant Clarkson, the former deputy reeve of Mississauga and an ardent heritage preservationist, died Sunday at age 95.

Clarkson was a descendant of William and Sarah Clarkson, who settled in what was then Toronto Township in 1850. They were one of the founding families of the village of Dixie.



**Grant
Clarkson**

Clarkson grew up on the family farm and attended Etobicoke Collegiate because there was no high school in what is now Mississauga. He rode the old electrical railway line to school — after he milked the cows.

One of his proudest achievements was helping to save The Grange from being demolished by a developer.

In 2004, Clarkson helped to officially open the cottage on Dundas St. W., west of Mississauga Rd., as the new home of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation.

In 2006, the former president of what is now known as the Peel Heritage Complex was recognized with an award from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. In the commendation, he was cited for his crusade to save a painting of aboriginal people camping along the Credit River that was painted on the blinds of the former Meadowvale schoolhouse. As chair of

Credit Valley Conservation, Clarkson helped have the painting restored by the National Art Gallery.

He was also successful in a campaign to have the painting moved to the Civic Centre a few years ago so it would be more accessible to the public.

Clarkson also resisted the widening of Mississauga Rd. to four lanes and fought against the channelization of Sawmill Creek.

Clarkson was elected as the Town of Mississauga's Ward 4 councillor in 1968 and became deputy reeve in 1971.

After the City of Mississauga formed in 1974, Clarkson was forced to run against the popular mayor of Streetsville, Hazel McCallion, and lost the fight for the Ward 9 seat.

Clarkson also sat on Peel County Council, was a member of Toronto Township's first Public Utilities Board, was president of Dixie Growers Cold Storage and was a founding member of ErinoakKids, the world-renowned treatment centre for children with disabilities.

He was a long-time supporter of Credit Valley Hospital and donated a piano to the hospital in honour of his wife Janet after she died in 2004.

While he was chair of the conservation authority, it bought such properties as the Adamson Estate in Lakeview, Saddington Park in Port Credit and the Rattray Marsh in Clarkson.

At a funeral service Wednesday, Clarkson's son, Dr. David Clarkson gave the eulogy, noting that his father felt "duty" was an honour and always did the right thing.