

Kaneff, Ignat Peel Bi  
Apr 24-92 MN  
**Citizen  
of year  
Kaneff  
has been  
giving  
since '51**

Prominent property developer Ignat Kaneff seldom has nothing to say, but he was temporarily rendered speechless when he learned he had been named Mississauga's 1992 Citizen of the Year.



**KANEFF**

"I nearly cried. That's an honor you cannot describe in any words," Kaneff said yesterday. "Here comes a guy from Bulgaria to this country, and to be given an opportunity to do what I've been doing, it's something."

Kaneff, 66, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kaneff Properties, has been an active philanthropist ever since immigrating to Canada in 1951.

He will be honored with the presentation of the Gordon S. Shipp memorial award at a May 3 luncheon at the Delta Meadowvale Inn.

Kaneff arrived in Mississauga from his native Gorno, Bulgaria, virtually penniless, but soon took on construction work with local developer Harold Shipp. Since then, he has become one of the nation's leading builders of residential housing and apartments, office towers, shopping centres and golf courses.

Even 41 years ago, when he was a man of modest means, Kaneff borrowed money to give to the South Peel Hospital Foundation. He hasn't stopped giving since, to various health, business, cultural, educational and recreational causes.

Since 1970, he has donated substantial time and proceeds to Community Living Mississauga and Erindale (which supports people with intellectual handicaps); sponsoring an annual charity golf tournament, and serving as honorary chairman of their annual fundraising events.

Bill Allerton, Executive Director of Community Living Mississauga, said, "I can't overemphasize his generosity. We run a number of programs we would not have been able to run without Mr. Kaneff's involvement."

As chair of the Erindale Campus Building Fund (1988-89), he was also instrumental in overseeing a successful \$3 million fundraising campaign, to finance a new academic building.

Holly Benson, Director of Development and Public Affairs at Erindale, said, "The man has unbelievable energy, enthusiasm and drive. He's a real proponent of the belief, 'If something needs to be done, do it,'"

"He is a tremendous inspiration and motivation for the rest of us on campus."

Yesterday, Kaneff stressed the need for new immigrants to assimilate into and contribute to Canadian society.

"I think it's absolutely essential," he said. "Creating ghettos, I'm not a part of that. We should think as Canadians."

The Citizen of the Year award recognizes the Mississauga resident who has volunteered time and energy for the betterment of the community. It is awarded by the Alumni Association of Erindale Campus, Mississauga Board of Trade and *The Mississauga News*.