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BEYOND THE STARS WITH
A CANADIAN ASTRONAUT

Showcasing The
TRANSFORMATION
AWARDS IN PICTURES

OMOBELLA PALACE

THE TV DRAMA SERIES THAT
DEFINES HERITAGE FUSION



7 **Ways To Stay**
MOTIVATED
FOR SUCCESS

EXCLUSIVE

ANTON KIKAS

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ROBMAR DEVELOPMENTS, CROMARK MEDIA AND ANTON KIKAS LIMITED
A DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN AND A CROATIAN NATIONAL HERO



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By Debra Wright and Ann Marie Collymore.

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There are few people in society who personify the triumph of the human spirit. Such an exception is Dr. Anton Kikas (Hon.), P. Eng. A professional engineer, entrepreneur, humanitarian, poet, songwriter as well as a film and television producer, he has made significant impact, especially in Canada and in Croatia, his homeland. Today, Kikas is the President and Chief Executive Officer of various companies, including Robmar Developments, Cromark Media and Anton Kikas Limited.

The roots of Kikas can be traced to Bosnia and Herzegovina, specifically the village Medjugorje. This was the place where in 1981, after apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to six children, global Catholic pilgrimage with more than a million people visiting a year, has emerged. Renowned tennis players Marin Čilić and Ivan Dodig are from the same village. Perhaps that is where Kikas drew his deep sense of responsibility, humility and compassion for others.

Growing up in Bosnia in a small mining town in a family of 5 children, Kikas started his first summer job at the age of 14. He went on to attend a technical land surveying school in Sarajevo, the capital. Upon graduation from the University of Zagreb in

Croatia, he proceeded to Canada to pursue his dream life. He wrote various examinations to receive his professional licences, which was a challenge, because he spoke no English at the time. He had to gain Canadian language proficiency in record time to succeed.

CONSULTING ENGINEER, LAND SURVEYOR & TOWN PLANNER

In 1975, Kikas established his civil engineering, land surveying and town planning firm, Anton Kikas Limited. For 35 years, it has designed and developed new subdivisions, including his own land development projects. He has worked with some of the largest developers and builders in Ontario, changing empty farmlands into new communities. "Anton is undeniably a successful Canadian entrepreneur, patriot, humanist and a Croatian national hero," says Professor Zvonimir Šeparović, former Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Justice of Croatia.

With his technical expertise, leadership skills and business acumen, Anton Kikas was selected to be a committee member of the Civil Engineering program at Ryerson University, and the Land Surveying program at George Brown College in Canada. As a part of his civic responsibility, he has been involved with federal, provincial and



Kikas family with son Robert, Anton, wife Maria and son Marko at the Transformation Awards gala, June 2018.



Anton Kikas with Mississauga's legendary Mayor Hazel McCallion



Anton at Ontario recognition ceremony, flanked here by ministers.



Bishop Jezerinac at Anton's movie premiere in Zagreb, Croatia.

municipal politics, to drive positive change. He was a member of the Toronto Olympic Bid Team, touring Europe to sell the Canadian city, and was in Moscow as a member of the Canadian delegation.

AMAZING IMPACT, HONOURS AND COMMENDATIONS

A philanthropist at heart, Kikas helped raise over \$300,000 for the Croatian Franciscan Cultural and Social Center in Norval, Ontario; another \$300,000, in one evening, for the construction of a church in Oakville, and \$50,000 for a student center at York University. He also raised \$250,000 for the Croatian National and University Library in Zagreb. He has hosted the Croatian National Theatre, presented the Croatian Poets in Toronto and financed publication of many books. His personal donations and contributions to transformational initiatives are too many to catalogue.

In 1992, Kikas was named Man Of The Year by The Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Governor General's Confederation Commemorative Medal for his national and community impact. In 2018, he received the prestigious Legacy Award from the Transformation Institute for Leadership and Innovation, and was

appointed to the Board of Advisors of the Institute in Toronto. He is profiled in the 150 Extraordinary Canadians legacy book for his professional achievements and lifetime of generosity.

"Anton is a respected leader of global stature. He is the pride of Canada and Croatia," says Dr. Tony Ruprecht, former Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism in Ontario. He has been a member of the Writers' Association of Herzeg Bosnia and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Mostar, BiH. An accomplished poet and songwriter, his songs have been performed internationally, including in upscale venues like Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto. Herzegovina University conferred Honorary Doctorate on him.

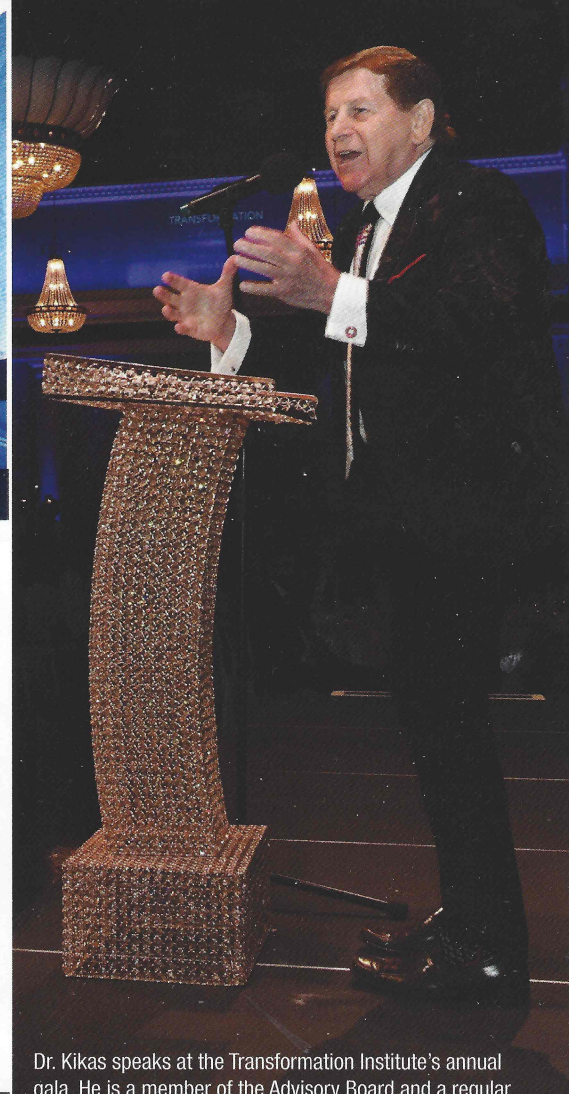
On the international engineering scene, while simultaneously providing land development services in Canada, Kikas had projects in Morocco in 1980, Trinidad in 1982 and Saudi Arabia from 1982 to 1986. He designed a road that led to the holy mosque in Mecca. He also promoted soccer games in Toronto. In 1984, he organized the last game of the famous New York Cosmos soccer club in Los Angeles, and brought legendary Brazilian player Pele to the game. In 1986, he had dinner with Argentina's soccer superstar Diego Maradona, during the UNICEF Charity World All-Star game.



The Bakarska Garda salute Anton Kikas in the City of Rijeka in Croatia, at the premiere of his celebrated movie.



Former citizenship minister Dr. Tony Ruprecht, Anton Kikas, his wife Maria and aviation tycoon Surjit Singh Babra.



Dr. Kikas speaks at the Transformation Institute's annual gala. He is a member of the Advisory Board and a regular supporter of its Crossover Mentoring Program for youth.

“Anton is a renaissance man. He is full of a positive spirit, lofty ideas, and is always determined to fulfill his goals. His love for humanity is the pinnacle of his remarkable legacy.”

Bishop Juraj Jezerinac.

Renaissance Man

In the 1980's, Kikas became president of the Croatian Business and Professional Association of Canada, the Croatian Canadian Home Foundation, and the Toronto Croatia soccer club. As well, he has been president of the Croatian Canadian Studies Foundation, which established the Chair of Croatian Language and Culture at the University of Waterloo in 1989. He organized and raised 1 million dollars in two evenings for the Chair, which is equivalent to over 2.5 million dollars in today's currency. The foundation also supports and promotes study programs, book publishing and film production.

In 2013, Anton established Cromark Media Inc. and became a producer of the weekly Croatica TV program on OMNI Television, to serve the Croatian community in Canada. He has produced many documentaries, including the historic 2019 film: Croatian Sports Legends - 120 Years Of Sports In Croatia, encompassing all Olympic games and world championships from 1900, when the first Croat won a medal at the second Olympic games in Paris. In May 1991, he established the first Kiwanis Club in Croatia, bringing

the influence of the renowned global humanitarian organization home. Three months later, his patriotism would make him the center of global attention.

DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN AND A CROATIAN NATIONAL HERO

The selfless actions of Anton Kikas are without bounds and are of historic proportions. In 1991, a war of aggression against Croatia by the Yugoslav army and other forces led to the killing of innocent people, destroying sacred facilities and other atrocities, including an attempt to take a part of Croatian territory, held since the 7th century! With righteous indignation and the financial contribution of the Croatian community, he went on a mission to arrange the purchase and delivery of arms as a gift to the Ministry of Interior and the Croatian Special Forces.

On August 31, 1991, two Yugoslav Air Force MiG 21 fighter jets intercepted a chartered Uganda Airlines Boeing 707 aircraft with 19 tons of weapons, with Anton Kikas and a crew of six on the



Celebrating Dr. Anton Kikas, other leaders & innovators, Liberty Grand, June 14th, 2018.



Anton with soccer star Diego Maradona.



Anton with Brazilian soccer legend Pele.



Anton interviews Zlatko Dalic, coach of the national soccer team of Croatia in 2018.



Frankfurt, Germany, with Consul General of Croatia and a friend.



Anton Kikas receives medal and plaque from City of Karlovac.



Honorary Doctorate from Herzegovina University.

plane. A professional British arms dealer arranged the military cargo. He was enroute to deliver the weapons, which Croatia desperately needed to defend itself from the aggression, but was forced to land in Zagreb, the capital, where the Yugoslav army captured him.

After three months of incarceration in a military prison, where he sustained broken ribs, ankles and nearly died, Kikas was released in exchange for a leading Yugoslav military general, whom Croatian Special Forces had captured, testament to the value that was placed on his life. The incident, which was chronicled in the Chicago Tribune, Maclean's Magazine and many other international media, affirm his brave and patriotic credibility as a national hero in Croatia.

At a press conference upon returning to Canada, Kikas said: if attacked by an outside aggressor, "I would do it again for Canada, the same way I did it for my homeland Croatia." He has received a medal of honour from the Assembly of Croatian Generals, as well as a Karlovac Honorary Garda gold medal. "Anton is a renaissance man. He is full of a positive spirit, lofty ideas, and is

always determined to fulfill his goals. His love for humanity is the pinnacle of his remarkable legacy," says Bishop Juraj Jezerinac.

While the world admires the impact of Dr. Anton Kikas (Hon.) in Canadian and Croatian history, his beautiful wife Maria knows him as an amazing husband; his sons Robert and Marko love him for being a great dad; and his friends honour him as an incredible gentleman, who never asks anything for himself, but always gives. A man who hardly says 'no' to any good thing he can do, and who is always ready to add extra to the ordinary, which explains his commitment to mentoring the next generation of changemakers, who will undoubtedly make the world a better place, and in turn further his legacy.

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