

Morris Family Philanthropic Fund

Bill Morris was a man who stood above the crowd. A leader in the Hamilton Jewish and legal communities, he was truly a force to be reckoned with. Instantly recognizable for his six foot-six inch frame, his heart and compassion easily matched his large stature.

Bill grew up in a family of modest means in the heart of Hamilton's Corktown neighbourhood with his parents and four siblings. Determined to make something of himself, he pursued a law degree in Toronto, returning to Hamilton after graduation.

Bill discovered his niche in personal injury law and founded the Morris Law Group in 1960. The company quickly rose to become one of Canada's leading civil litigators.

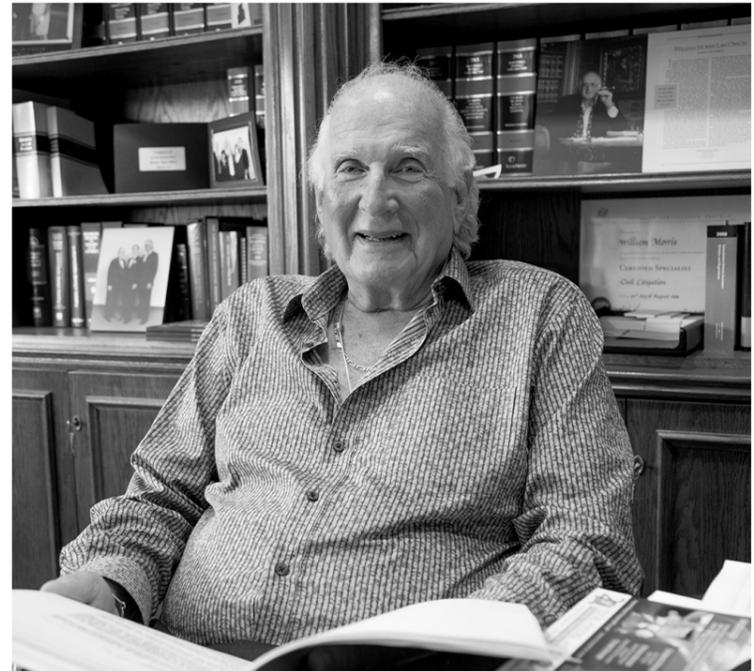
Bill met his wife Eva Schwarz on a blind date in 1961, and six months later the happy couple were married. Over the years they have been blessed with daughters, Lisa and Lori, and sons, Randy and Jay, and four grandchildren.

Highly respected among his peers, Bill served as president of the Hamilton Law Association (HLA) and later president of the Hamilton Medical-Legal Society. In 2006, he was awarded the HLA's prestigious Emelius Irving Award in recognition of his distinguished service to the legal community.

Bill also became deeply involved in Hamilton Jewish life. At the age of 32, he became the youngest president of the Hamilton Council of Jewish Organizations (the precursor to today's Hamilton Jewish Federation). As the years progressed, he served as president of the newly-formed Federation, president of the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith Canada, president of B'nai B'rith Canada and vice-president of B'nai B'rith International.

Bill was extremely generous with his time as well as with his money. He supported a great number of charities and worthy causes. "He always wanted to help everyone," said his daughter Lisa. "There are so many good charities out there, and while he didn't stop giving to the others, the Jewish community was especially dear to his heart."

As a reflection of Bill and Eva's desire to pass down their sense of philanthropy to their children, they created the Morris Family Philanthropic Fund with the Hamilton Jewish Federation in the year 2000. The fund provides ongoing support for various charities including Jewish Social Services of Hamilton and the Kosher Food Bank.



When Bill passed away on April 23, 2019 at the age of 85, he and Eva were just four months shy of their 58th wedding anniversary. Among the hundreds of people at his funeral were several mourners who emulated Bill's signature style by wearing their neckties undone as a show of love and respect.

While many will miss Bill dearly, his legacy and impact on this community will never be forgotten.

