

John Stewart | Sep 18, 2008 - 9:15 AM | 0

### No wining from Grapes on this tribute

Who else would be more appropriate for the members of the Grape Growers of Ontario to have chosen as this year's honorary Grape King, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary, than the commentator that the hockey world knows as Grapes?

Longtime Mississauga resident Don Cherry doffed the typically flamboyant floral sports jacket he was wearing yesterday when he arrived in St. Catharines at the Grape Growers 57th annual general meeting and pulled on a purple overcoat that signifies he is this year's honorary Grape King.



Don Cherry, Bobby Orr. Mississaugan Don Cherry (right) recently doffed one of his flamboyant jackets for a purple overcoat after being honoured by the Grape Growers of Ontario. In his speech Cherry provided a long tribute to his hero, Bobby Orr. File photo

He may not know much about wine, but his broadcasting sidekick on Coach's Corner on Hockey Night in Canada, Oakville's Ron MacLean, happens to be a bit of a connoisseur.

"He's got a wine cellar and all that, so I know a little bit about it," Cherry told the St. Catharines Standard. "My wife's a pretty good drinker of wine, so I'm surrounded by them anyhow."

In his speech, Cherry stuck pretty much to the subject he knows best — hockey. He once again confessed his admiration for the best player who ever played for him as a Boston Bruin.

Cherry provided a long tribute to his hero, Bobby Orr, which even included a video.

"I've been in love with him all the whole time," said the long-time former American Hockey League defenceman. "I get told all the time ... give it a rest with Bobby Orr."

The guest speaker also praised his good friend, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, who helped arrange his Niagara visit.

Joe Pillitteri, who presented the grape-coloured jacket to Cherry, said he is a Canadian icon. "This industry depends on Canadian products, so we want to thank you for that."

The selection of Cherry, said Grape Growers CEO Debbie Zimmerman at a press conference before the event is about finding an icon passionate about Canada and being Canadian. "It's just like the passion our growers have to grow a 100 per cent Ontario wine," said Zimmerman.

Cherry's visit comes on the heels of past celebrity speakers who have included CBC's Rex Murphy, actor Dan Aykroyd and former Olympic speed skater Catriona Le May Doan.

jstewart@mississauga.net

### Featured



Oct 25

### Election results

Tonight's the night! Will it be four more years for 89-year-old

Mayor Hazel...

### Featured Video

DailyWeb TV.com LIFESTYLES & LEISURE: Well Deserved Leisure Time. play now

ADVERTISEMENT

Canada CANADA SAVINGS BONDS Available until December 1 csb.gc.ca Play video

WagJag DEAL OF THE DAY MISSISSAUGA Save 50% 50% Off Eclectic Dining 2 Days 16 Hours 37 Mins remaining BUY NOW REGISTER WAGJAG NOW - FREE!

### Most Popular

Read Recommended Shared