

EDITORIAL

With Frances Learment

No medals in war of words between veterans and Ottawa

With some tears and a lot of justifiable anger, a group of Canadian veterans recently protested what they said was “shameful” and “disrespectful” treatment from Veterans Minister Julian Fantino when they (unsuccessfully) appealed to Ottawa not to close eight Veterans Affairs offices. An NDP motion to save the offices was defeated in the Commons on Monday. Veterans claim the office closures will make it tougher for them to get the help they need - the government said veterans can now get help at 600 Service Ontario locations.

Fantino said the veterans were being played in a political game by the Public Service Employees Union - another insult from Fantino, who, in an ill-advised snit, actually turned his back on medal-wearing veterans who claimed what he told them about the closures was hogwash.

Facing what they see as abandonment of lifelong pensions, forced retirement, an adversarial approach to recognizing disabilities, and a backlog of approximately 75 military suicide investigations, Canadian soldiers and veterans who serve in the armed forces should be able to count on their government for support, not insults.



LIFETIME MEMBERS: The dedication and hard work of two veteran Acton Agricultural Society members - Judy Burtney (left) and Susan Kuechler - was recognized when they received Lifetime Memberships from past-president Brad Swackhamer at a recent meeting. - Frances Learment photo

Well deserved retirements

When I was little, there were times when I was awake at 11:30 at night and would hear the familiar sound of the *Tonight Show* theme song and Ed McMahon doing his “Heeeeeere’s Johnny” and then see Johnny Carson walk out from the curtains, dressed to the nine’s to start his hour-long show.

Carson was famous and respected. He could be funny without being cruel. He had guests that included actors, politicians and even animals. For 30 years and for 4,531 shows he had original monologues, jokes and creative interviews.

After Carson retired, Jay Leno took over the *Tonight Show* and for 22 years (minus the brief Conan O’Brien oops by the network) he had almost 100 more shows than Carson, and almost the equivalent of jokes about Bill Clinton.

I am often in awe of what people accomplish during their careers. Leno had more than 4,000 different and original jokes that were funny by not be-



By Angela Tyler

ing cruel. Carson kept his show a part of the American family for more than 30 years.

Last week, Ted Brown, a columnist from “the other” local paper retired. We have a commonality. We were both groomed, as they say, by former editor of both newspapers, the late Hartley Coles, and we both had, and still have, a great deal of respect for him.

I’ve met Brown a handful of times and probably said about the same amount of words to him. Our paths rarely crossed, however, I read his works, looked at his photographs and respected his creative abilities. In his last column he recalled his “30 plus years” and tallied over 1100 columns on file and that doesn’t include his thousands of photographs. Oddly, even I

purchased and mounted one of his photos that I purchased from “the other” newspaper.

We live in a time of disposable. If we don’t like something, we change it or replace it. If we don’t like our car, we get another one. If we don’t like our spouse anymore, we get a divorce. If our television isn’t big enough, we buy a bigger one. If we don’t like our job, we find another one. The average length of a marriage is between five and seven years. An average employee stays at an employment for just under five years.

There is a saying “they don’t make things like they used to.” It’s so true. How many people do you know that retire from the same job after 22 or 30-plus years? Not many, I’m guessing. Me either, hence my utmost respect for those who do retire after years of long dedicated employment. The world needs more people like these guys.

Enjoy your retirement Jay and Ted.



TASTE OF THE CHAMBER: A large appreciative crowd sampled tasty treats offered by local eateries at the fourth annual Taste of the Chamber event on Tuesday evening at Blue Springs golf course. Acton Councillor Mike O’Leary (top photo) was served by Linda LaRose of Tanners Pub & Grill, and MacMillan owners Blake and Roy MacMillan provided samples of their fresh frozen fare. - Marie Shadbolt photos



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