

EDITORIAL

with Dawn Brown

Journalists and society each have a role

Actress Meryl Streep made a poignant speech during the Global Globes this past Sunday, while receiving the Cecil B. DeMille Award. As well as calling out the President Elect for his repellent behaviour without once mentioning his name, she spoke about the importance of a principled press, the importance of journalists holding those in power to account.

In these days of Facebook memes and links to politically biased websites rife with articles filled with half-truths and out and out lies, and with print journalism diminishing a little more every day, it's more important than ever to have a credible source for information. But more and more, the general public seemed less inclined to value news reporting, and more likely to simply follow whatever sources support their political leanings, whether based on fact or not.

During her speech, Streep referred to an incident where Trump mocked a reporter with cerebral palsy, and rather than being offended by his actions people seem more focussed on whether or not Trump *knew* the reporter had cerebral palsy or not when he mocked him. But Trump as a long history of undermining the press.

In the Tweets Trump fires off like an angry pre-teen, he refers to the press as the 'dishonest media,' he accused Megyn Kelly of Fox News—a notoriously pro-right news network—of picking on him during a debate and crassly suggested she did so because she was menstruating. The list goes on. Any time a member of the press disagrees with him, he accuses them of unfairness and dishonesty. But more disconcerting is the number of people who seem to share his views.

Good journalism is an unbiased representation of the facts, how the reader/viewer chooses to process said facts are up to them. Perhaps this editorial comes across as a touch self-serving, but without a principled press, you're no longer reading the news. It's propaganda spoon fed to the masses to keep us from asking questions, from criticising, from demanding that our leaders answer for their behaviour and their actions. Whatever your political affiliations or views, it's important to have facts to form said views around.

"Disrespect invites disrespect. Violence incites violence. When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose," Streep said, during her speech, and I believe she's absolutely right on this point, which is why it is more important than ever for society to have fair and accurate journalism, but also for society to be receptive, willing to believe the facts even if they don't like them.



NOT BOTHERED: The hectic scene at the industrial fire across the road (see story on page 01), did not seem to faze this flock of wild turkeys. - Les Schmidt

No bud for me



By
Angela Tyler

The Budweiser Stage is the soon to be new name for the Molson Amphitheatre. I'm not a fan of the name. I think it's because the Budweiser name is American to me. Ontario Place to me is synonymous with summer and the CNE. It perhaps is not stereotypical Canadiana yet it is Ontario Place.

Budweiser to me is the huge team of Clydesdale horses pulling an old fashioned wagon with kegs of beer. Budweiser is country western music and football. Budweiser is stereotypical Southern USA grunting guys enjoying sports, music and while scantily clad women are present, oh and there may be a barbecue as well. I know those are stereotypes. However, that's the visual I get when I hear the word Budweiser.

Ontario Place was created in 1971. It survived throughout the thriving times of the 70's and 80's, but by 2010 was in trouble. It was outdated. Although the original outdoor theatre, the Forum had been transformed into the Molson Amphitheatre and

other changes came about it was still hanging on by its nails. On February 1, 2012, the provincial government "announced that sections of the park were to be closed and redeveloped, with a targeted completion date of 2017, in time for Canada's 150th anniversary." That sounded great...our Ontario Place would be revitalized for our country's big year.

I am not opposed to company or individual donors having their names on facilities they have large donations for. This is common practice now. Look at our beloved Skydome renamed to the Rogers Centre which I still call the Skydome. The Sony Centre is always going to be the O'Keefe Centre to me. The Georgetown Hospital will always be that to me even though for a while it was renamed and now part of Halton Healthcare.

I can deal with name chan-

ges and progress. However, what I don't want to see is a famous Provincial attraction that was scheduled for a grand-reopening for our country's 150th Anniversary with an outdoor theatre named for an American beer company. Besides, the name itself is really...lacking. It is such a basic name that it is lackluster. Budweiser Stage. It sounds like it's the stage in a honky-tonk bar, not an outdoor venue which had previously hosted Tina Turner, symphony orchestras, BB King, Teenage Head, the Monkeys. Oh my goodness, the list of those who played over the years is overwhelming.

Clearly we can't recapture history. However, hopefully, the renaming of the amphitheatre and it's summer nights filled with music by the lake will not be the final jump the shark moment for it, and instead become the time when an evening on a blanket under the stars in the cheap seats on the lawn listening to great music becomes cool again.



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