

# Comment

## Outrage is justified

After witnessing our so-called leaders in Ottawa being shamed into calling a cease-fire to their political posturing in order to spend a day honouring our country's Second World War veterans, we wonder if any of them is fit to lead.

It's a national embarrassment that Prime Minister Paul Martin and the leaders of the three opposition parties trying to bring down his minority government waited until last Tuesday to announce they would appear in Holland together in recognition of the 60th anniversary of VE Day.

Their gesture amounts to nothing more than damage control. It came way too late considering the four leaders missed the main ceremonies in the Dutch city of Apeldoorn, arriving for the last day of a week of scheduled events.

Sunday's remembrance of May 8, 1945 — the day the war in Europe finally ended — should have taken precedent over the political power struggle being played out in our nation's capital.

Our country's prime minister failed to demonstrate leadership — or common sense — when he earlier cancelled a sched-

uled trip to the Netherlands in order to defend his government from Stephen Harper's threat of a non-confidence vote.

In a televised interview last week, Minister of Veteran Affairs Albina Guarnieri blamed Harper for potentially forcing her home to Canada when she should have been joining our veterans at 60th anniversary liberation celebrations in the Netherlands.

The accusation came across as little more than political posturing to us.

Did Martin and Guarnieri honestly believe that Harper would risk political suicide by challenging the government while they stood shoulder-to-shoulder with veterans at VE Day ceremonies overseas?

The selfish behaviour exhibited in Ottawa has sent a cold message that the valour of our nation's veterans ranks a distant second behind the political future of the Liberal government.

Canadian veterans and their families were justifiably outraged upon learning their leaders wouldn't be in the Netherlands to honour the memory of our country's bravest citizens.



## Our Readers Write

### Fishing Derby once again a success

Dear Editor:

The Halton Sportsmen's Association was pleased to have been able to once again offer the Milton Children's Fishing Derby April 30.

We would like to thank the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 136 for its continued financial support and the Town of Milton for its assistance in co-ordinating the permits and supports required.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Bentley's Water Service, Bomar Bargain Barn, Carolyn Keyworth, Carra Outdoors, Classic Coolers, D&S Signs, Flooring Works, Halton Regional Police, Hardball Cafe,

Loblaws, M&M Meat Shops, Meritor Suspension Systems, Shimano Pro Staff, Smokey and His Bandits and the Tye Group Inc. Special thanks also go out to all of the members of the Halton Sportsmen's Association, along with their families and friends for their hard work and effort in hosting another successful event.

As the fishing chairman of the Halton Sportsmen's Association, I was thrilled to witness, first hand, great sportsmanship and camaraderie among so many of Milton's youngest citizens.

**Naim Bejjany**  
Halton Sportsmen's Association

### Thanks to all who helped with rural clean-up

Dear Editor:

Despite being postponed from the previous Saturday due to rain, the April 30 Hornby Clean-up Day — hosted by the Hornby Association of Rate Payers (HARP) — was a resounding success.

Some area residents actually started the clean-up April 22, while others got going throughout the week — taking advantage of the nicer weather — and some even braved the pouring rain April 23.

Some Fifth Line residents went so far as to continue clean-up efforts after the re-scheduled event April 30. A wet start to the day couldn't dampen the spirits of more than 80 volunteers.

After the clean-up, HARP sponsored a barbecue, which was the perfect ending to our most successful event to date.

Volunteers collected well over 200 bags of garbage from roadsides, Hornby Park, parking lots and creeks in the area. In addition to bagged garbage, roughly 1,000 pounds of assorted debris were collected, such as mufflers, tires, signs, stands and car and truck parts.

Focus will now turn to maintaining Hornby as a litter-free area by asking residents, local officials and police to help prevent shameful garbage dumping.

It's unfortunate that I have to report that only one hour after the final wrap-up of the day, we noticed on our way home that somebody had tossed a pop can into the ditch.

HARP would like to sincerely thank the Town of Halton Hills for the use of Hornby Ball Park for the staging area and barbecue, and for the donation of the garbage bags

and use of the safety vests.

Thanks also go out to Superior Gloves of Acton for its continuing donation of gloves, as well as Hornby Glen Golf Course, Pepsi-Cola Canada, Tim Hortons and AGRAM Meats for their individual contributions.

Also helping out were Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and councillors Clark Somerville, Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson. Halton Regional Police's patrols on clean-up day — helping keep roadside traffic at a safe speed — were appreciated as well.

And thanks should be extended to The Champion for its continued coverage of our event.

**Erik Kowal, president**  
HARP

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### Pud

by Steve Nease

