

Minister and MPP appreciate Carleton farmers

by Kory Glover
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NORTH GOWER – APPRECIATION IS ALWAYS KEY FOR THE FARMERS OF THE CARLETON AREA, ACCORDING TO CARLETON MPP GOLDIE GHAMARI, WHO ORGANIZED AN EARLY BREAKFAST AT NORTH GOWER'S MARLBOROUGH PUB, ON FRI., JUNE 28.

"Farmer appreciation is a daily thing for me," she said. "Agriculture is so important in the community."

However, while the breakfast started at 7 a.m., Ghamari was late to the event, coming through the doors at around 8:25 a.m. due to a neighbour's home catching fire as a result of the storm the previous night. She stated that she was up until 5:30 a.m. in the morning lending assistance in any way she could. According to Ghamari, no one was seriously injured or suffered life-threatening injuries from the fire.

However, one big surprise that Ghamari had up her sleeve for the Carleton farmers was that she invited the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ernie Hardeman,

A little appreciation can go a long way

The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ernie Hardeman, was a special guest to the farmer's appreciation in North Gower in late June. He made a point to visit every table to discuss issues within the Carleton farming community and listen carefully to the ups and downs of farmers' operations. Glover photo

to chat with them about their operations, including their ups and downs.

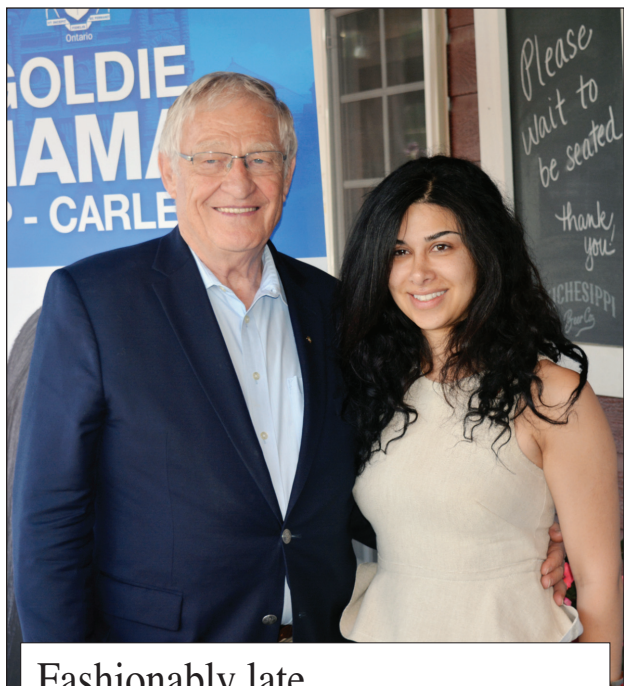
"That is what I do," he said. "To hear what people are thinking. The responsibility of the minister of agriculture is to find out what the problems are and deal with those and what we can do to make life better for farmers."

Ever since he was appointed to the position a year ago, Hardeman has been looking at red tape, to see what is keeping farmers down.

"What I'm getting here is obviously, this time of year, is making sure all of the [agriculture] programs are there. If the season isn't what it should be and we don't get the yields, to make the sure the protection for them is there," he said. "We didn't have quite the wet weather here but we had it in some other areas; some crops are doing better in other areas.

But they had other concerns they wanted addressed."

North Gower was only the first stop for Hardeman that day as he had three more stops in the North Dundas area.



Fashionably late

Carleton MPP Goldie Ghamari, pictured next to Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ernie Hardeman, was late to the appreciation breakfast she had organized. Did she sleep in and forget to set her alarm clock? No – she was up until the early morning helping her neighbour deal with a crisis involving a lightening storm and a spreading fire. Glover photo



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