

Expression of Condolence for Fred Arsenault by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Fred Arsenault, a veteran of the Second World War who passed away at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre on January 23, 2022.

Fred passed away at the age of 101, just a few weeks shy of his 102nd birthday.

Joseph Alfred "Fred" Arsenault was born on March 6, 1920 in Prince Edward Island. At the age of 20, he joined the Cape Breton Highlanders as a Private and fought overseas in Europe. His Regiment was involved both in the liberation of the Netherlands as well as campaigns in Italy, and he also served in Germany.

After the war, Fred turned to farming in his home Province before eventually moving to Toronto with his wife, Yvonne, to raise their family. Following his retirement, Fred moved back to Prince Edward Island but returned to Toronto in 2009 to live with his son, Ron. In 2019 Fred became a resident of the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre. At Sunnybrook he was presented with a special coin commemorating the 75th anniversary of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, "The Liberation of the Netherlands."

In the spring of 2020 Fred and his family made national headlines with a social media post asking to receive 100 birthday cards in celebration of his 100th birthday. Fred ended up receiving 100,000 cards from all across the country. The following spring, for his 101st birthday, Fred sent out another post, this time encouraging all Canadians to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

A decorated veteran, Fred served his country to ensure we all enjoy the freedoms we have today. Fred is truly a hero.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Fred's family and the thousands of Canadians whose lives he touched through his life and his story.

February 2, 2022