

Spending big issue in '75

Rookie MPP Reed reviews first hectic months of work

A determined effort to head down the road towards a responsible fiscal policy is the greatest achievement of the Ontario Legislature, according to newly elected Liberal MPP for Halton-Burlington Julian Reed.

In a recent interview Reed applauded the province's move to cut spending and to cut back on funding for municipal governments and school boards across the province.

Reed claims the great influx of provincial dollars into Halton has tended to lull taxpayers to sleep. He noted the shift in onus from the province to regional and area governments would make it tough for municipal councils, but he sees it as a good thing for the ratepayer. "He'll have more power and he'll be able to say 'put the brakes on'. Until now he has been lulled to sleep."



JULIAN REED

Good for both
Reed touted the controversial rent review and landlord and tenant legislation as good legislation. He noted the Liberal party was successful in amending the proposed legislation to gain protection for the landlord as well as for the tenant.

Commenting on the possibility of a provincial election in 1976, Reed suggested he wasn't anxious to have another election.

"I want to see the government work. There has been enough good from the minority government so far to believe that it can work."

"It will last until we and the NDP disagree with the Conservatives on the same issue or until Davis sees the polls swing in his favor and concocts a stand that we have to oppose."

"Much to be done"
"It's so frustrating. You're in on a whim, but you have so much that has to be done. It can't all be done in three months. I would like time to apply the energy and the tiny bit of talent to the scheme of things," he explained.

As a relatively new combatant on the battlefield of the legislature, Reed is amazed at the extent government plays in the day to day lives of people.

Representing north Halton, Reed finds himself with the additional problems of the greenbelt and Niagara Escarpment Commission on top of the regular problems with which an MPP has to deal.

"I hope we are given riding offices to help take care of the routine riding problems," he said.

Reed was questioned about the difficulties in the transition of a private citizen to a public figure.

Some privacy
"I'm not used to that yet. I find I have to be careful to protect some privacy and individuality," he answered.

energy and taking the existing technology and applying it.

Among the ideas Reed is advancing during the meetings of the select committee is an idea that would encourage industrial consumers of hydro to have their own generating plants.

This, he says, could relieve Ontario Hydro of the need to provide for such a rapid growth in generating plant expansions.

Hydro projects its needs at 30 percent over usage in peak periods, he points out.

Reed's idea is based on lowering the use during peak periods. This, he says, could be done if firms operated generators in their plants. During the peak periods the firm would be drawing from the Ontario Hydro grid system and during off peak periods it would pump energy into the grid.

Under that system the consumer would pay for what it drew from the system but would be reimbursed for what it pumps back into the system. In fact the meter would be running backwards when the plant was feeding into the hydro grid.

The general effect of this would be to lower the projected needs for capital equipment. In Reed's opinion, millions of dollars could be saved by controlling the peak use of hydro in the province.

This is one of a number of possibilities the select committee is pursuing at the current time.

Homes no cheaper
The MPP also tends to look towards the basic but imaginative type of scheme to bring about affordable housing in the province.

Reed acknowledges that OHAP and other federal and provincial schemes have helped buyers get into homes but it hasn't done anything to lower the cost of the houses.

Reed identifies municipal servicing as the key to cutting costs in a house. He says the idea of zero run off must be explored. If this could be done in subdivisions, it might be possible to reduce or eliminate the need for storm sewers.

Land not suitable for agriculture should be considered for housing and ways and means should be found to service the lots without having to develop expensive municipal servicing, he feels.

Austerity ahead
Turning to the economy, the rookie MPP says he sees five pretty austere years ahead. "Jobs will become more and more valuable in the province. It's too early to assess the impact of unemployment in Halton."

"I see inflation declining and the dollar becoming worth more. Unemployment will be far less a problem if we accept controls, but if we all grab for the brass ring it's going to come crashing in—and it will be disastrous."



WHAT GOES up must come down. Hydro men were taking down the Christmas decorations from the main streets the day after New Year's Day. Gold tinsel arches and hanging lanterns made the streets festive all during the holiday season, especially at night.

Skerrett against McMurtry's plan

Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett hopes Queen's Park examines Attorney General Roy McMurtry's proposals for dealing with drinking drivers very carefully.

McMurtry has suggested police officers be empowered to stop suspected drinking drivers, suspend their driver's license for 24 hours, confiscate keys and impound cars.

"Personally I don't think we should have that kind of power. It is the judges role not ours, to take away driver's licenses. It isn't the job of the police to find a person guilty," Skerrett said.

Signal wire cut

Signal wires for the CNR crossing at 15 sideroad and the sixth line, Esquesing, were cut on both boxes. The incident was reported to police and the necessary repairs made.

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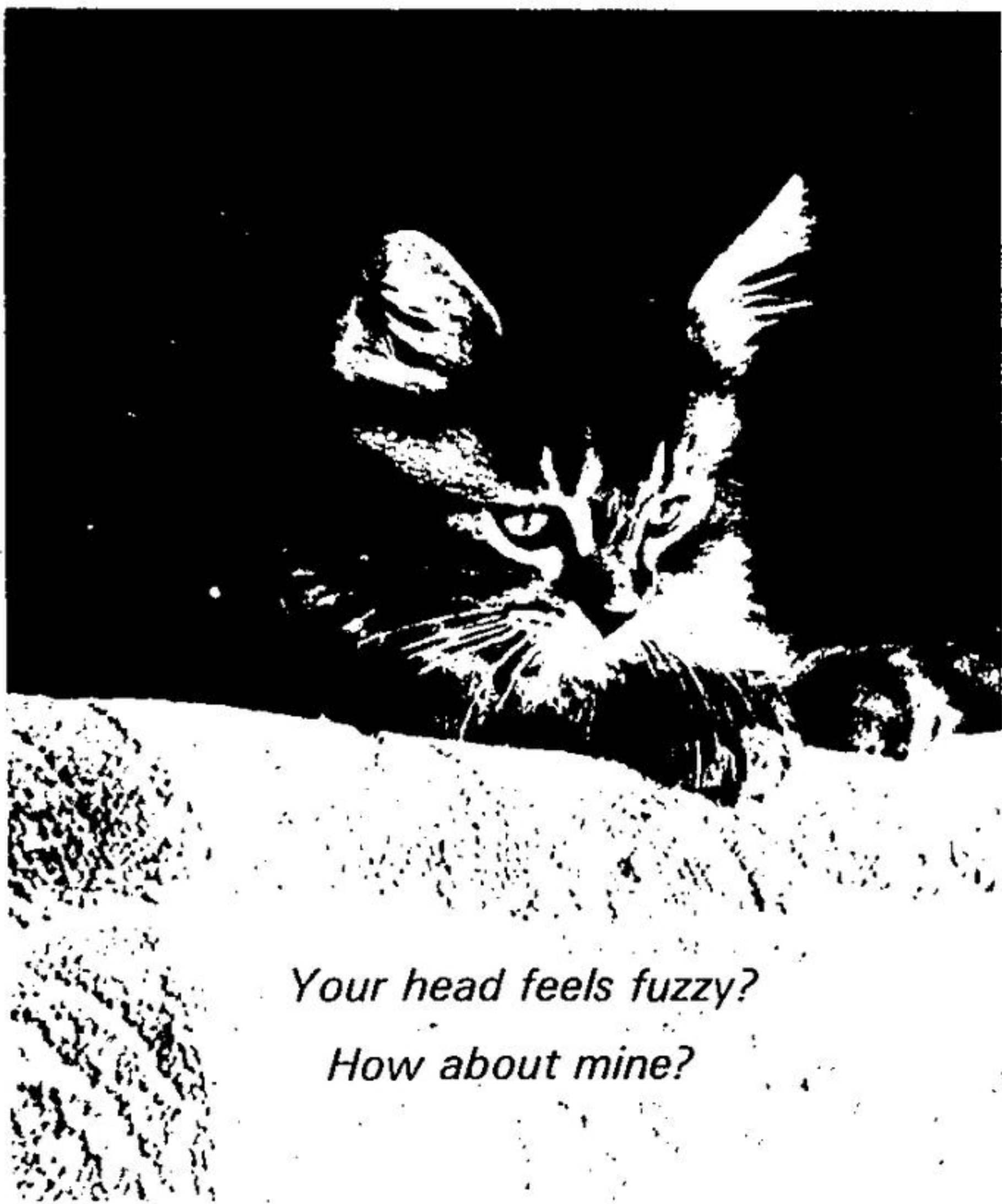
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Winter fun at Terra Cotta

Terra Cotta Conservation Area, widely known as a swimming, fishing and camping spot in summer time, is getting into the act with winter fun.

Their winter program, tagged "Come Along", hopes to attract visitors to winter wonderland with sleighing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and skating, every Sunday from January 11 until February 29.

Bonfires will warm cold hands and feet and refreshments will be available.

For the snowshoe hikes led by members of the Bruce Trail Association, snowshoes can be rented. Instruction in moving across the snow in the big shoes will be by Carl Monk.

Three times a day, conservation films will be shown.

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Julian Reed, M.P.P.

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Heritage Day February 16

Milton Council proclaimed Monday, Feb. 16 as Heritage Day in Milton at its meeting Monday night.

The day was proclaimed at the request of Milton and District Kinsmen Club. In a letter to the mayor the club said, "During 1974, the Association of Kinsmen Clubs petitioned the Federal Government to declare Feb. 16 as a public holiday—Heritage Day. The purpose of this day is to provide an opportunity for citizens of Canada to pause and consider their heritage, their flag and their future."

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