

WHO WAS JULIAN REED? A LOOK INTO THE LATE MP'S LIFE

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Long-time Liberal MP for Halton Julian Reed died at Georgetown Hospital on Jan. 6 at the age of 85.

He leaves behind a career of public service spanning almost three decades — first elected as MPP in the then newly-created riding of Halton-Burlington.

Reed then made the leap to federal politics in 1993, representing Halton-Peel.

MP for Oakville North-Burlington Pam Damoff sent her "deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues."

Added Oakville MP and Minister of National Defence Anita Anand, "I join residents of Halton in expressing my deepest condolences to Mr. Reed's loved ones and I am grateful for his service to our region, our province and our coun-

try."

Though she didn't work closely with Reed, former MP for Oakville Bonnie Brown remembers him well.

"What he wanted to be was the terrific showman, and he had a twinkle in his eye all the time," she recalls.

Known as much for his acting career and his political one, Reed took on a number of roles — often requiring him to sing.

He regularly performed at Kitchener's Centre in the Square, including in productions of 'The King and I,' 'Carousel' and 'A Fiddler on the Roof.'

"My husband and I, when we heard he was going to be playing in that role, we drove to Kitchener ... and watched him perform," said Brown, who saw Reed perform in 'If I Were A Rich Man'. "It was terrific. And he was terrific."



Toronto Star Archives photo
Julian Reed in 1981.

Brown said Reed had "a terrific commitment to the health of the environment."

"Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend the Region of Halton, as well as Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills, on their clean air initiatives," Reed began remarks in the House of Commons on Feb. 25, 2004.

"Halton started buying biodiesel in October 2003 and now it accounts for al-

most 40 per cent of their total fuel purchases. Biodiesel helps reduce smog causing emissions and air toxins from being released into the air. They also have an anti-idling engine policy," he added.

As far back as 2002, Reed was also thinking about greenhouse gas emissions. During the summer of that year, Halton Region was studying ways to collect methane gas landfills.

"Through these studies, Halton Region will be able to identify new and innovative opportunities to cut pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure a safe, quality water supply," Reed told the Oakville Beaver in 2002.

The Reed family is postponing memorial services in the wake of COVID-19 restrictions. They are asking for contributions to Parkinson Canada.



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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