

Reed disputes Chudleigh's claims

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where Chudleigh got his information because the federal government has been looking into the concern continually for years.

Reed said the federal government's responsibility in the gas price issue lies around competition while the provincial government's responsibility is with price regulation. He said the province can regulate the price of gas at the pumps by allowing the price to reflect the world price of crude oil or not.

Reed said over the past five years the federal government has prosecuted eleven cases of price fixing by individual gas station operators and had nine convictions. He added in all those years the government hasn't found collusion resulting in price fixing among the large oil companies.

Reed said the federal government's real mandate is to provide options.

"We have become hooked on gasoline yet in Ontario there are four fuel options available," said Reed. He explained the alternatives are ethanol, propane, natural gas and hydrogen.

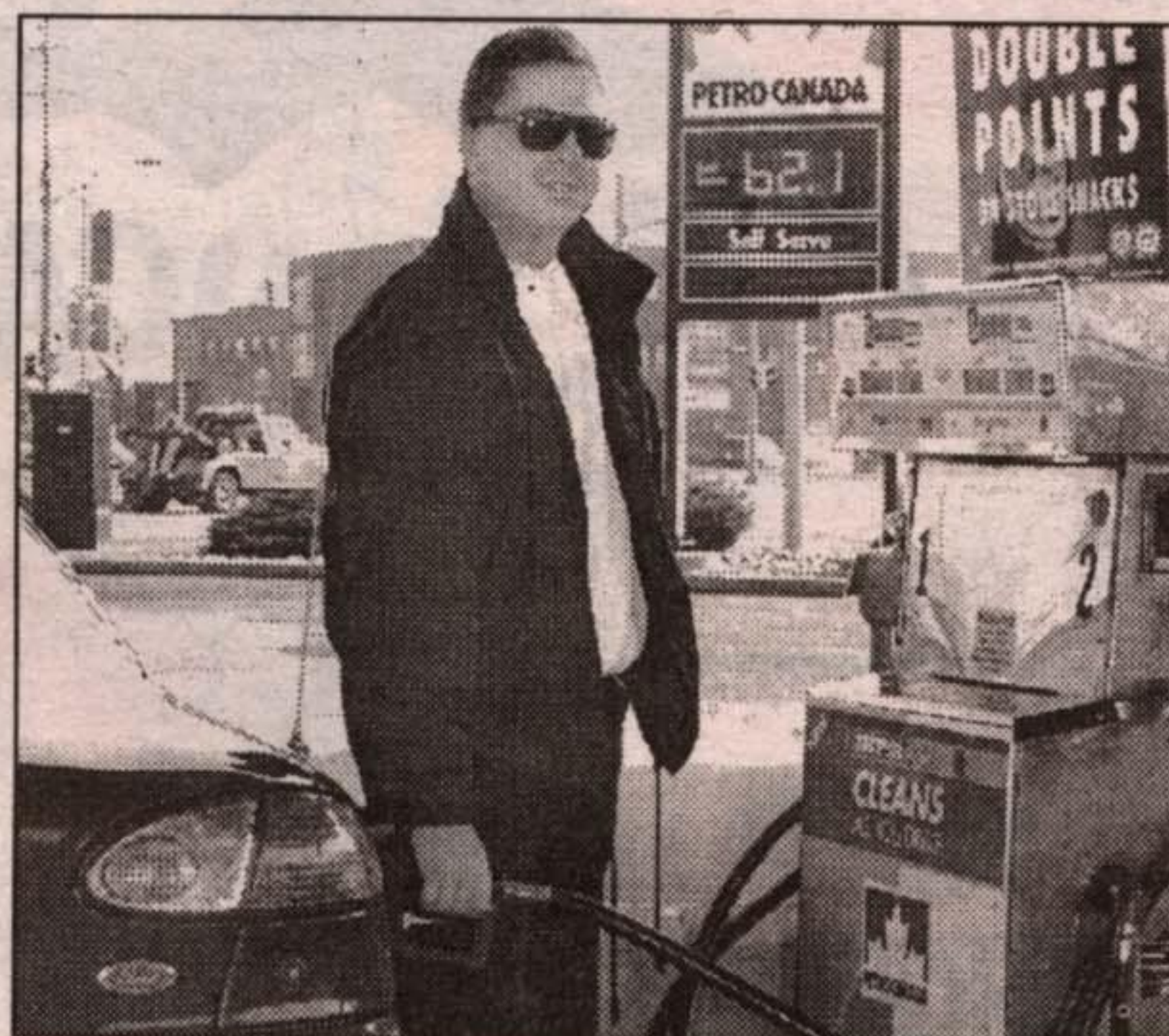


JULIAN REED

"We are involved very deeply in partnership efforts for new fuel that will be coming on the market very shortly," said Reed. Through its Consumer Watchdog Commission the provincial government monitored gas prices in the summer of 1998 and this spring.

Chudleigh said in the summer of 1998 the government announced they were watching prices prior to each long weekend, and prices stayed down except for the Thanksgiving weekend. The commission was disbanded during the election.

"For many people, especially in suburban



Jeff Pierog of Georgetown fills up at a local station as gas prices across the country escalated Monday afternoon. Although Pierog filled at 62.1 cents a litre, the price jumped to 66.5 cents within an hour, then back to 62.5 cents by early evening.

Photo by Ted Brown

or rural areas, the only mode of transportation is their car or truck. Any cost increase can be a hardship. Consumers are angry and frustrated with what is happening at the pumps. They want action," said Chudleigh. The task force will hold its first meeting next week and complete its report by next spring.



TED CHUDLEIGH

Other members of the task force are co-chairs John O'Toole Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and MPP for Durham and MPP for Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford Joe Tascona, and Dan Newman MPP for Scarborough Southwest.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Intruders discovered in two homes

Police are investigating two break-ins into Marilyn Cr. homes that occurred Saturday morning.

About 4 a.m. a homeowner was awakened by his dog barking. He went downstairs to investigate and found a woman leaving through the door. The rear window was open but nothing was taken. The woman is described as 5'2", white, with

shoulder length brown hair. She was wearing light clothing.

At another Marilyn Cr. home, about 4:15 a.m., a woman awoke to find a man wearing a balaclava in her bedroom. He fled the house. Entry into that home was gained through an ajar sliding door. A purse and bag were stolen but found on the step with \$100 missing from the purse.



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