

Julian Reed

# Milton's MPP debunks Provincial Throne Speech

**By Jennifer Barr**  
Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed is somewhat cynical about the speech from the throne introduced in the Ontario Legislature last week. If the province acted on each of its promises "our province would go ahead with great strides," he says. But he adds, he's yet to see all the promises fulfilled in past Throne speeches.

Commenting on the 80 point program in an interview this week, Reed remarked he felt the establishment of 600 more nursing home beds would mean a great deal for Halton which is on a nursing home priority list. However, he's afraid the promise will get lost in the economic shuffle as each project is constantly moved into further phases.

He sees one of the great ironies of the throne speech in the pledge to put heavier emphasis on Hydraulic power. Already Hydro has slashed its "measly" budget of \$2.4 million earmarked for hydraulic power exploration to \$1.5 million, says Reed. This is only one tenth of one per cent of Hydro's total budget and "hardly allows them to do the paperwork," he observes.

However, Reed was positive about plans for more efficient farm productivity. "We do know plans are underway. The old grants and loan system is being replaced by productivity

loans designed for a 'bigger bang for the buck.'" He was also pleased to see French language services being upgraded.

"The Francophone community is located in pockets" he said, feeling services were being increased in areas where they were needed.

"We have a responsibility as Canadians and the whole question of Francophone services is part of our overall responsibility."

As the Liberal energy critic, Reed said he was pleased the province did adopt some of his attitudes in four major energy areas.

The province has made a commitment to examine the use of alternate liquid fuels such as alcohol, Reed explains.

On the whole question of energy, he becomes excited. He feels the province is beginning to move on such things as standards for appliances, greatly upgrading small electric motor efficiency.

"Conservation is good business—the cheapest barrel of oil is still the one you save," Reed says, and the cheapest kilowatt of electricity is the one you

don't have to use."

Although he's pleased to see changes in energy thinking Reed would like to see the province go further. He'd like to see more encouragement of small hydro plants rather than large installation. He'd like to see use made of the 50 per cent waste on government cut wood in tree lots.

He has many facts at his fingertips to prove the efficiency and low cost of small hydro plants.

"We've got to get away from the window dressing," he says, referring to huge installations.

"We need to adopt the viewpoint of a young farmer who has just purchased his first farm. He would walk around his land to find out what he had and how to utilize it most efficiently. We're not doing that (with our province)."

Reed feels the government has to venture into the field of leadership on this question of energy exploration instead of simply being a mirror.

"We've got to risk failing. The government has to stick its neck out," he says. "That's what I see for the '80s, we can't hang back and do nothing about it."

Two areas he would have liked to see included in the Speech from the Throne is more environmental protection. The problem of "acid rain" was commented on in the Throne speech but Reed feels the problem is far more serious than making strategic proposals.

"We know the sources (of acid rain) we know how to deal with it—we're now at the stage where we have to make a commitment to it."

"We've got to do it by example, we've got to clean up our own act first, then we can go to the States and say 'this is what we're doing'."

Reed was also concerned about the lack of land use commitment in the Throne speech. He is increasingly concerned about the disappearance of agricultural land and feels that we need to move now on a program to save the five per cent of tillable land left in Canada, half of which is in southern Ontario.

He has strong feelings on energy conservation and a return to alternate methods of using energy.

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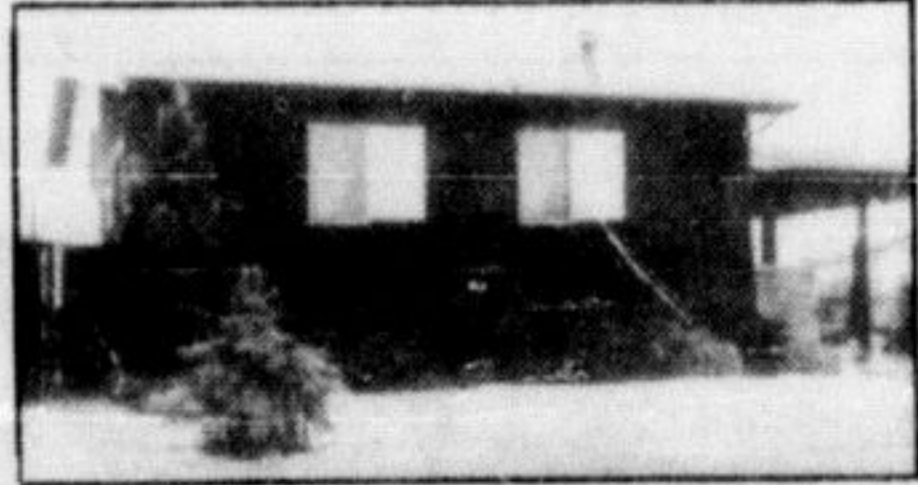


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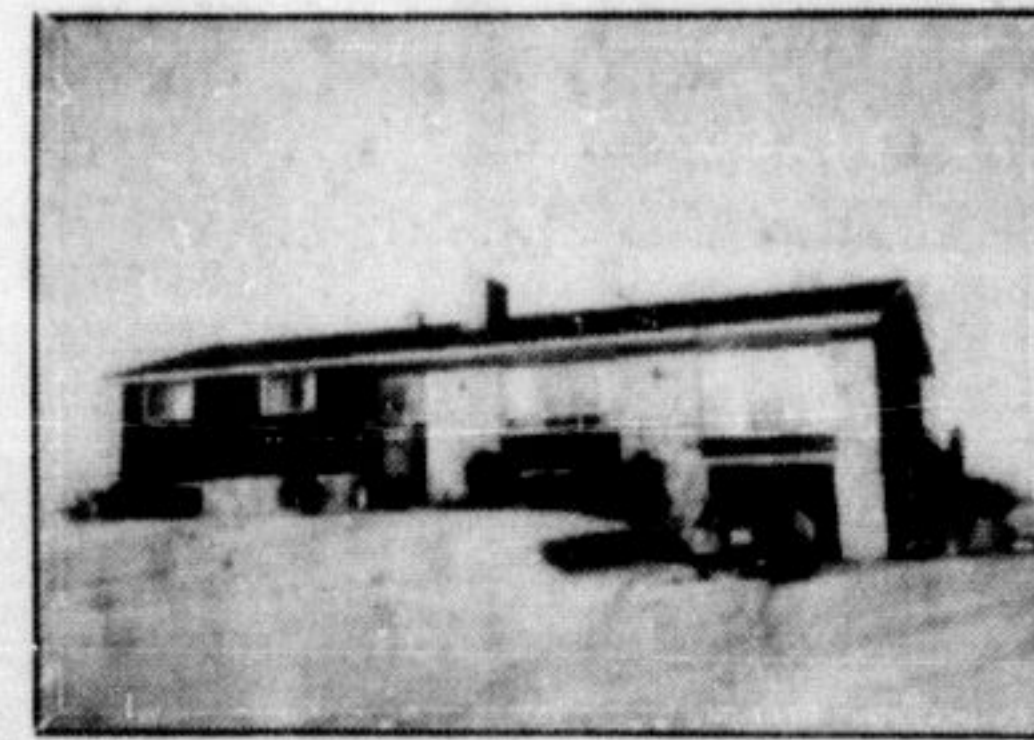
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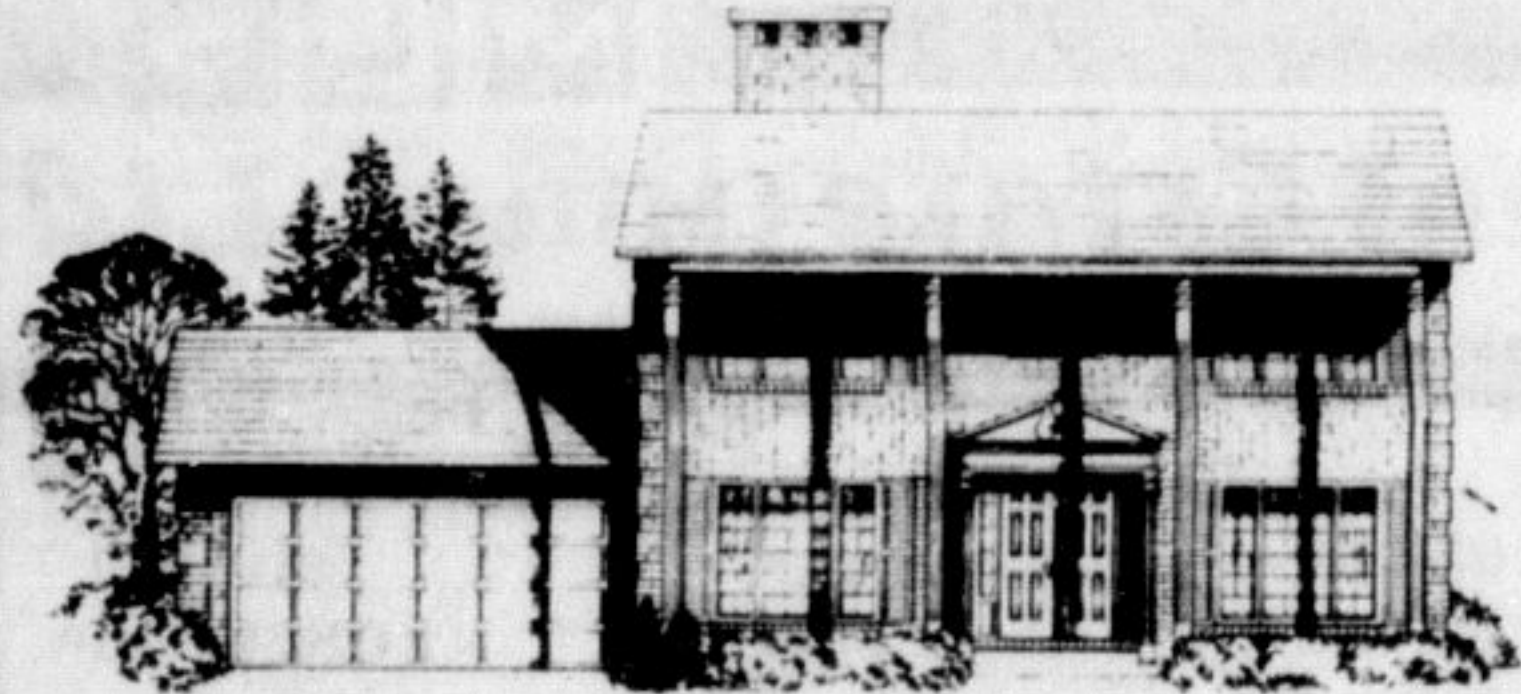
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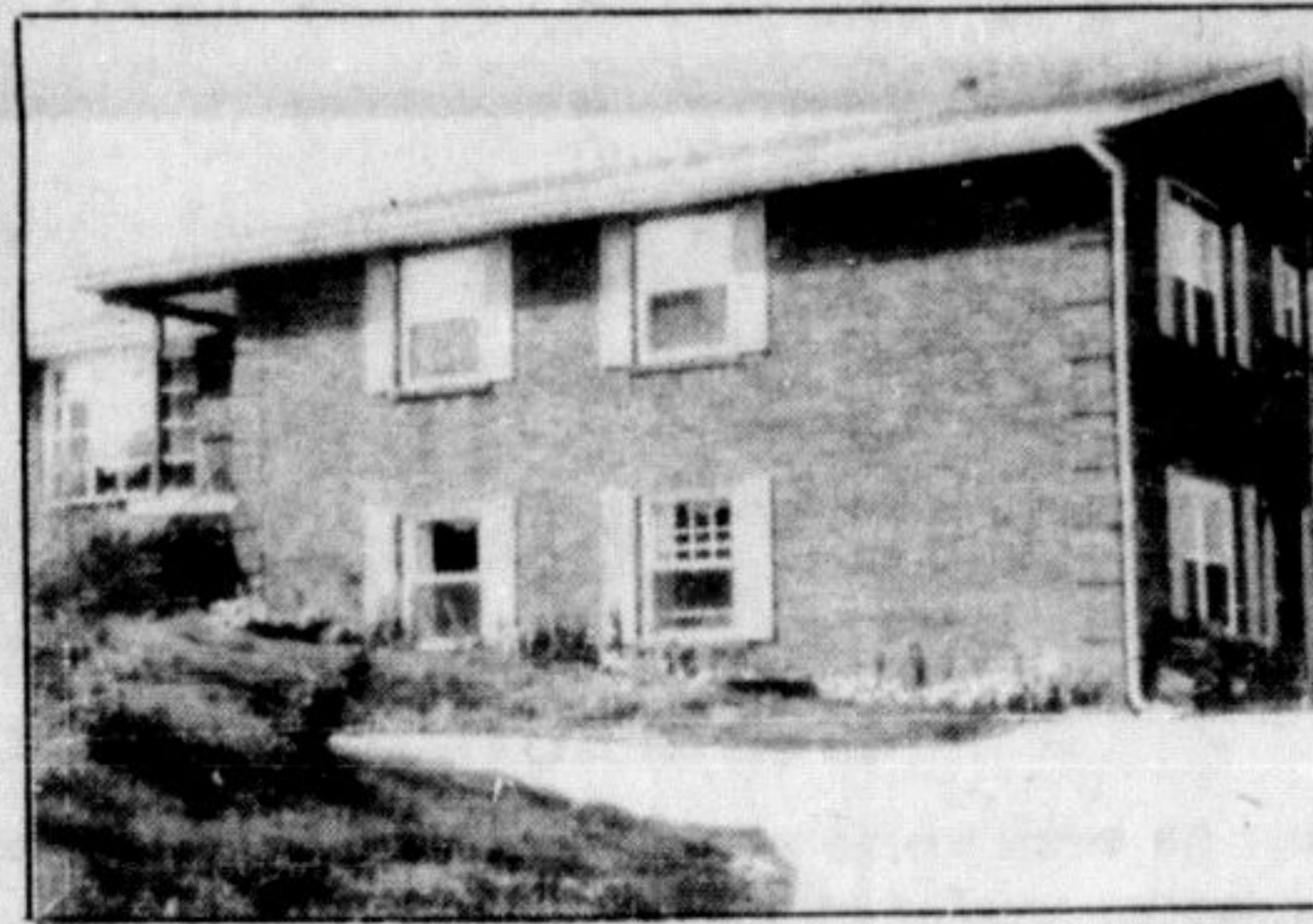
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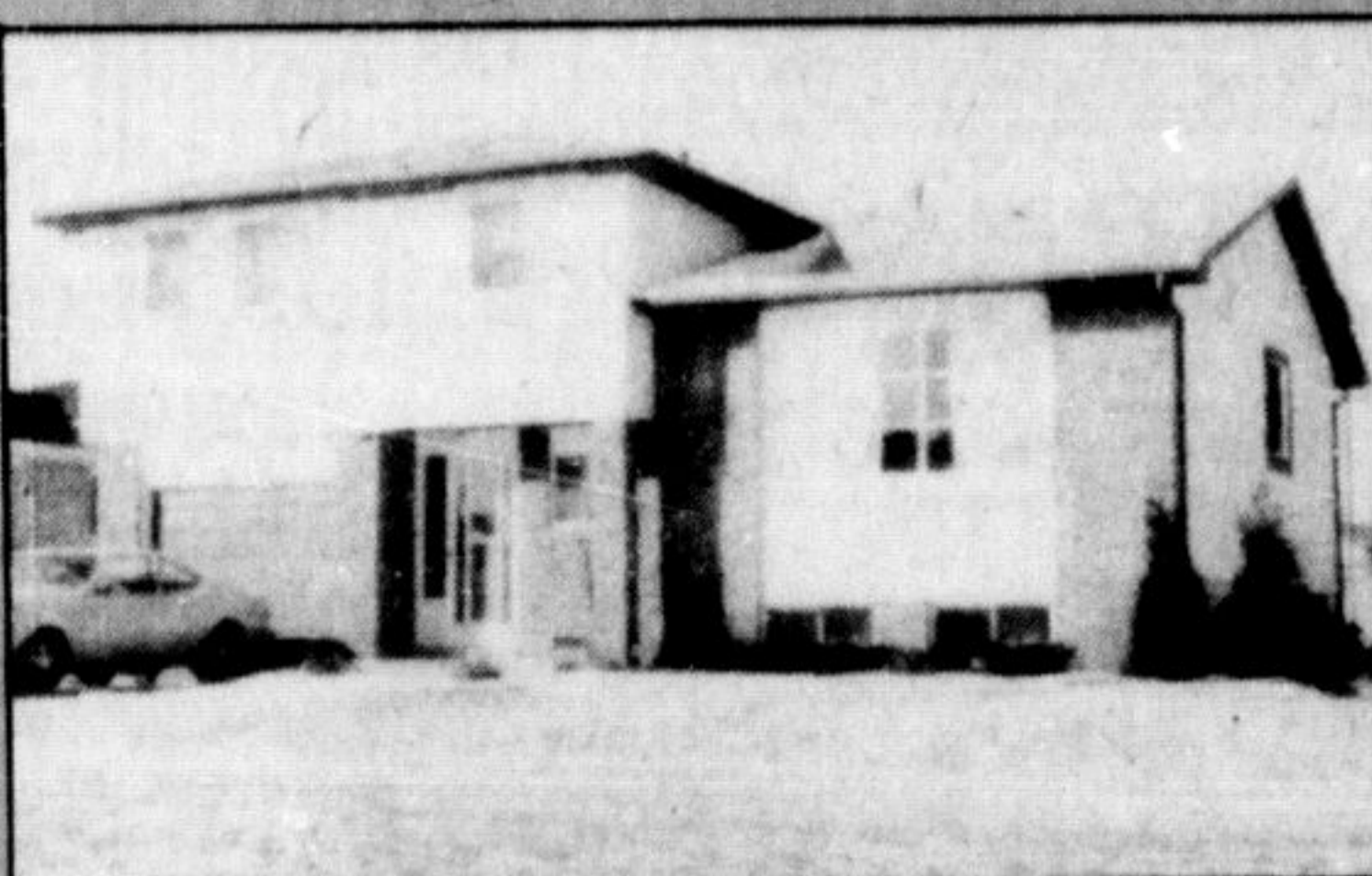
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