

Region review resource recovery for Halton — Reed

By Jane Muller
A review of Halton regional government and the implementation of resource recovery technology in Halton are two of the issues Halton-Burlington Liberal MPP Julian Reed is addressing in this, his third election campaign.

As a fourth generation farmer in the Norval area, Mr. Reed speaks sympathetically about the need to retain valuable agriculture land especially in the case of site F which threatens to turn valuable land into a garbage dump.

He commended the Tremain-Britannia Citizens' Group for their five year fight which has in reality just begun with the recent decision to adhere to the Environment Assessment Act instead of the Environmental Protection Act as the region had hoped.

Mr. Reed considers resource recovery systems to be the only answer to what he calls our "garbage problem."

"We have to work toward a resource recovery system. Garbage should be looked at as a potential resource," says the Liberal energy critic.

"We are the last jurisdiction to come to grips with this."

He points to the fact that European countries have been involved in resource recovery since the turn of the century and the United States government which declared garbage as a natural resource in 1973 has put "seed" money into the individual states to implement resource recovery systems. Now such systems are in place in 68 centres.

Mr. Reed suggests if the federal government could supply similar seed money, advances in resource recovery could be made in Canada as well. He cites Milton and Halton as a prime area for resource recovery as the need is acute and the population is concentrated and high enough to support such a system.

He said the Ministry of the Environment's claim that markets are not available for the products of resource recovery is "a lot of garbage."

"As the population becomes more and more concentrated we have a heavier impact on the environment."

In 1973 provincial Liberal leader Robert Nixon and the party opposed regionalism and the leader offered predictions of what would happen if such a governing body were formed, according to Mr. Reed. Duplication of services and excess costs were predicted and have resulted.

Mr. Reed said the first priority of a Liberal government would be an immediate review of regional government. If parts of the system could be salvaged they would be but if not, regional government would be dismantled.

"It can't go on the way

it is subjecting taxpayers to those expenses."

According to Mr. Reed regional government has not stood the test of time as the provincial government had hoped.

"History has shown us it's not getting better. If it were, then they might have a case."

He calls regional government a "mini province in essence but you don't have an opposition party. There must be some means of having a finger on the pulse with another point of view."

Expansion approval for Milton District Hospital from the Ministry of Health last week was called a classic case by Mr. Reed.

"Hospital administration has been fighting to get permission for two years. It is typical non-

sense to delay a decision until it has reached a crisis and drop it in at election time.

His main concern is the delays will probably mean the bricks and mortar won't be put in place for at least another two years.

"If the administration had been allowed to start when the need arose then the construction would already be underway."

Mr. Reed said the Liberals recognize that medical care is a priority. He says if doctors especially general practitioners were paid more, fewer would be opting out of OHIP. He feels if OHIP paid adequately and if such payment was made on time, then the system would be more agreeable to those in the medical profession.

"The low rental housing issue in Milton has probably occupied more hours in my office than any other. The province should be involving itself in the way it supported low rental housing in other communities."

He said the government hides behind the fact that Milton's need is not high enough for a low rental complex. Mr. Reed claims an attempt to correspond with the Ministry of Housing in regard to those in Milton desperately in need of housing in December and again in February has produced no input by the ministry so far.

Mr. Reed suggested Premier Davis's call for election a reaction to poll results indicating personal popularity.

Election '81



Seeks third re-election. Liberal MPP Julian Reed says government should be closer to the people.

Non-profit housing is Fran Baines' key issue

By Linda Kirby

Private non-profit housing should be a top priority item on a list of "musts", according to Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines.

The 47-year-old Georgetown resident said she is concerned over the lack of low-rental housing in the Milton area, where it is badly needed.

The long-standing issue of providing non-profit housing must be worked out soon, she said, adding the Domus Foundation, a charitable housing organization, qualifies for federal aid.

Continued complaints from the public sector and within the region on the subject of regional government indicates an obvious problem, said Mrs. Baines. "But that doesn't indicate the problem is with the set-up of regional government."

Necessary changes should come from within Halton and should not be dictated by outside governments, she said.

During her rounds of door-knocking Mrs. Baines said she has met with concern over the general economy, rising costs and growing interest rates.

"As far as interest rates go, there is nothing we can do about that."

"The problem is of national dimension and tied to the American economy," she said.

Mrs. Baines is concerned that Ontario residents are not buying locally-grown produce, but instead rely on fruits and vegetables.

She said she would like to see some means of storing more Ontario produce, therefore lessening the need for imported goods.

A second indoor pool for Milton would certainly receive her support, she said.

The \$500,000 has yet to receive town approval, said Mrs. Baines. Then the town could go after a government grant.

"And I would certainly push for a pool grant," she said.

If elected, Mrs. Baines said she plans to hold monthly meetings throughout the riding to meet with her constituents.

"I would like very much to be available to the people," she said, adding she would likely have a constituency office in the centre of the riding.

Mrs. Baines said she is seeking the riding seat after many years of party work at both the federal and provincial levels, because she feels she can do a better job for people from inside the government.



More homes. Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines says non-profit housing must be a priority.

NDP would hold regional review

by Jim Robinson

If the New Democratic Party forms the next provincial government, it would call for an immediate review of Halton Regionalism, according to Halton-Burlington NDP candidate Chris Cutler.

In a joint announcement Thursday with Burlington NDP candidate Michael Wright, Mr. Cutler said his party would not abolish regional government but would want a complete review in order to find answers for a number of ills.

Such a review would look at the administrative practices of the council and committees since 1974 when Halton was formed.

It would also look at a division of responsibilities between the local and regional levels. Mr. Wright said this would include "the five public works departments in the region—garbage, water, and sewer responsibilities, human services, and planning."

Mr. Cutler said his party does not counsel terminating regionalism and a return to the former Halton County system of government.

"New Democrats recognize that the old country system, particularly in this part of Ontario, was inadequate to meet the demands of a

changing province.

"Urbanization and growth have necessitated planning on a regional basis.

"Many services increasingly spill over local municipality boundary lines.

"There can be economies to providing services over a larger population base.

"Therefore, the simplistic solution that regional government may be simply abolished, with nothing to put in its place, is unacceptable.

"But equally unacceptable is the other simplistic notion that the present regional system should be preserved by tinkering with it a bit to make it more efficient," Mr. Cutler said.

He said the NDP wants a full review of "each regional government in the province to deal with each region in its own unique way."

"In some regions it may be possible to have a one-tier government, with local community councils to protect local identity and input.

"In some regions it may be possible to place most services at the local level and look after regionalized services through co-ordinating committees.

"The key is to tailor the regional structure to the actual needs and characteristics of that

region."

Mr. Cutler and Mr. Wright both confirmed they had no actual ideas for changes in Halton regionalism themselves, but would prefer any changes to come from the NDP reviewing body, and then put into law.

But Mr. Cutler said Halton is a prime area for a provincial review because this has yet to happen in the seven years of Halton's existence, while it has occurred in most other regional municipalities.

"Also, New Democrats believe that a review of regional government across the province must be accompanied by a package of reforms to the system of municipal finance, property taxes and assessment," Mr. Cutler said.

These reforms include an NDP package announced two weeks ago calling for a reduction in education taxation and the introduction of economic value assessment. The object of this package, Mr. Cutler said, is to take taxes away from the property tax system.



Region needs review. Halton-Burlington NDP candidate Chris Cutler told a press conference last Thursday a government formed by his party would call for an immediate, full review of Halton Region.

Mr. Reed said the first priority of a Liberal government would be an immediate review of regional government. If parts of the system could be salvaged they would be but if not, regional government would be dismantled.

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