

Julian Reed makes maiden speech to House

Following is the full text of Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed's maiden speech to the Provincial Parliament. Mr. Reed is the first Member from the new riding, formed prior to the provincial election of September, 1975.

It is a particular privilege for me to address this house since I am a new member representing a brand new riding. It is interesting too, to note that Halton-Burlington with its particular geographic situation, stands in the forefront of the change and evolution of this great province. And as such, it is probably more sensitive to the policies of government than most other areas. Indeed, may I say that the government policies on land use, the Parkway Belt and Niagara Escarpment, presented as they were, devoid of imagination and vision, probably contributed as much to my strong rural support as any other single thing. I believe that a program of land use planning, necessary as it is, must also be accompanied by a program of compensation to those farmers and landowners whose life-styles have been upset by government policy.

The Niagara Escarpment which runs the length of my riding, poses one of the more difficult problems for this government. On it, we find farmers, homeowners and industrialists who all use the assets of the Escarpment in one way or another. As well, environmentalists and naturalists see the escarpment as a place of natural beauty within a short distance of a large metropolitan area. The creation of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, which was formed to preserve the natural state of this land formation, is laudable in its intent. However, its application leaves much to be desired, since the regulations imposed have been so strict in some cases, as to be unreasonable. If steps are not taken immediately to correct this situation, those landowners and farmers who live on the escarpment, and who could be its biggest boosters, will be alienated for years to come and I call upon this government to act now, to ensure that the regulations imposed on these people are fair and contain the elements of justice which will make a friend rather than an enemy.

The problems of the Parkway Belt parallel Escarpment problems insofar as they represent government interference in the lifestyles of those people unfortunate enough to be caught because of geographic location.

The subject of energy is also of great interest to my riding, not only from the traditional point of view of the rise in prices of fossil fuels, but more importantly, as a result of the expansion plans of Ontario Hydro. Plans which will set the course toward the development destiny of this province for the next 50 years. Many of my constituents are concerned about the now famous Bradley-Georgetown Hydro Corridor. A corridor not yet built but planned to carry 50 kV power from the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station into the southern part of this province. The government has been asked to provide an independent study to determine the feasibility of this corridor. And I am pleased to say that after a direct confrontation during the election campaign between a constituent and the premier of this province, the premier made a commitment to provide an impartial and independent look at this difficult situation. And I will be following with great interest, the developments that occur as the premier keeps his word to the people of my constituency.

This controversy, however serious in its own right, is only a symptom of things to come if we allow Ontario Hydro to continue with its incredible plans for the future. I seriously question the management of an organization that has not taken all possible steps towards the wise use of the product it produces; towards a pricing policy that will help to level out; the high's and low's of the demand curve; I question the plunge into nuclear power that still carries with it so many unanswered questions, not the least of which is the storage of plutonium, with a half life of 24,000 years, which will be contaminating the environment of our children's children and their

children's children for hundreds of thousands of years. Is it a question which Ontario Hydro is dealing with? Or, is it really a question that Ontario Hydro does not know the answer to and would sooner avoid? I question the management of a corporation who, in the name of economy and efficiency, would close power sources of the non-polluting and renewable type. When their engineering staff knows full well that we now have the technology which will allow these stations to run on remote control and compete, successfully, with other forms of power generation.

I questioned the management of an organization that has committed itself so blindly to one form of production of its product that it cannot seriously consider the alternatives that are so easily available to it, such as allowing the private generation of in phase synchronous power by industries during their peak hours. If we in this province are ever going to get out from under the weight of imported energy, that weight which will press more heavily upon us as the years roll on. Then, we must start now. (Already at least a decade behind) to develop those energy sources which we have available to us. And it is interesting to note that last year, the Ministry of Energy in Ontario, spent a grand total of \$50,000 on the development of solar power.

The direct use of solar energy, Mr. Speaker, is the ultimate power on this planet. And we might as well face the fact that in Ontario, we do not have an abundant supply of traditional forms. We might as well face the fact that our system of nuclear power generation while being bound to be with us for many years to come, is not the final answer. I challenge the Minister of Energy to remove his rose colored glasses and to develop a vision of the future in this province based on the ideal of non-polluting, renewable resources and with the practice of sensible conservation. Let us put an end, once and for all to this concept that nuclear power is the only power and that nuclear power will save us, because it won't.

I would like to address the subject of Education for a few minutes, since education was one of the major issues in the election campaign so recently fought and so recently won. I am not an educator and am not qualified to speak as one. But I am a parent and I represent, in my riding, many parents who look upon the recent thrusts of education with much reserve and I refer to the loosening of standards across this province and the failure of the Ministry of Education to provide standards of achievement at all levels. It is my feeling and the feeling of my constituents that students at the present time are being handicapped across this province because they are graduating from high school with differing sets of standards in those subjects we consider to be core subjects. I would be the last person to urge any return to the so-called elitist system of education. But I would like the Minister to know that my constituents support the imposition of provincial standards of achievement in those core subjects such as English, Mathematics and History. We do not understand bureaucratic double talk which continually tries to sell us on the idea that we have a core curriculum at the present time. What we have is a hodge podge of achievement standards applied differently from school to school, from region to region, all across this province. And we are deeply concerned that students from different parts of the province will enter the same class in the same university, on be-

ing improperly prepared in one core subject and another being improperly prepared in another.

My riding, Mr. Speaker, is also blessed with that questionable imposition called 'regional government'. Regional government, we were told, would provide economies and efficiencies that could not be achieved in any other way. And yet, in reading the most recent financial statement for the region which my riding serves, we see the necessity for a continuing increase in the amount of provincial government financial participation in the affairs of Halton region. Is the government simply trying to bail out a system that is not working well? I call on the government of this province to immediately take steps to reform the regional system, continuing to utilize those areas of regional government which are practical and economically sound. But to turn back to the municipalities those areas of jurisdiction which the municipalities can handle in a superior manner. It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that this morning, municipal workers in the Town of Acton which is part of the Halton region, drove nine miles to the Town of Georgetown to punch-in and then returned nine miles to Acton to begin their day's work. All this in the name of 'Regional Efficiency'.

When our region was formed, each of the municipalities, whether they were rural or town, had their own body politic. They had their own pride. They had their own sense of responsibility. Many of my constituents tell me they feel they have lost that sense of community and that sense of identity. It may not seem important to a big government ostensibly dealing with big problems but people are still individuals and people still relate to communities and the interest in community and the

sense of community has not altered in size. It would do well for the government when attempting reforms of this nature, that they consider that people are individuals and that they live in communities and that practical politics should relate directly to those communities. I stand 100 percent behind the concept of local autonomy for local decisions but the regional system is not an application of local autonomy. The regional system is the creation of a mini province and people simply cannot relate to that. I am very proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that I come from a small community, the Village of Norval located in the Credit River Valley, on the east side of the Halton-Burlington riding. It is a community that is closely knit and contains many families who have lived in the valley for generations.

I suppose it was one of those communities the premier referred to in 1971 in his speech in Kapuskasing when he said, "If I become the leader of the Conservative Party, I will see to it that small communities in Ontario remain small and vital". That was the same year his beloved regional school system undertook to close the school in our small and vital community. On no more profound an argument than department policy. The words of his speech have a cavernous and hollow ring. Words, Mr. Speaker, must be backed by the depth of commitment.

I was elected to a riding area that has been traditionally Conservative for over 30 years. Surely the mere fact of my election should tell this government that their trust has been, at the very least, badly mis-directed and that the time has come for a government not so arrogant but creative, strong and responsible, to lead the people of this province into the future.

—Everyone's invited to Milton's New Year's Eve belling ceremony at the town hall. The party starts at 11.45 and ends shortly after midnight.

—Most stores were closed Boxing Day but nearly all were back in business on Saturday.

—The after-Christmas letdown: Christmas cards are on sale in some stores for half price.

GREETING CARD

The first of the year in France is the time of the greatest festival and is to the native of France what Christmas is in America. This is the great family day and the most cherished of all red-letter days on the calendar.

The greeting card custom is more extensive in France at New Year's than it is in other countries at Christmas. It is almost a duty to mail greetings to every acquaintance. The average person will feel neglected if he does not receive at least a hundred cards.

New Year's is, in fact, a home-coming with relatives and friends, gathering for the purpose of dining and saluting the newborn year.



Join the people you like so much and say hello to a sparkling New Year! To all our good patrons our fondest gratitude.

From Staff & Management
MILTON DOMINION HARDWARE
227 Main St. 878-2353

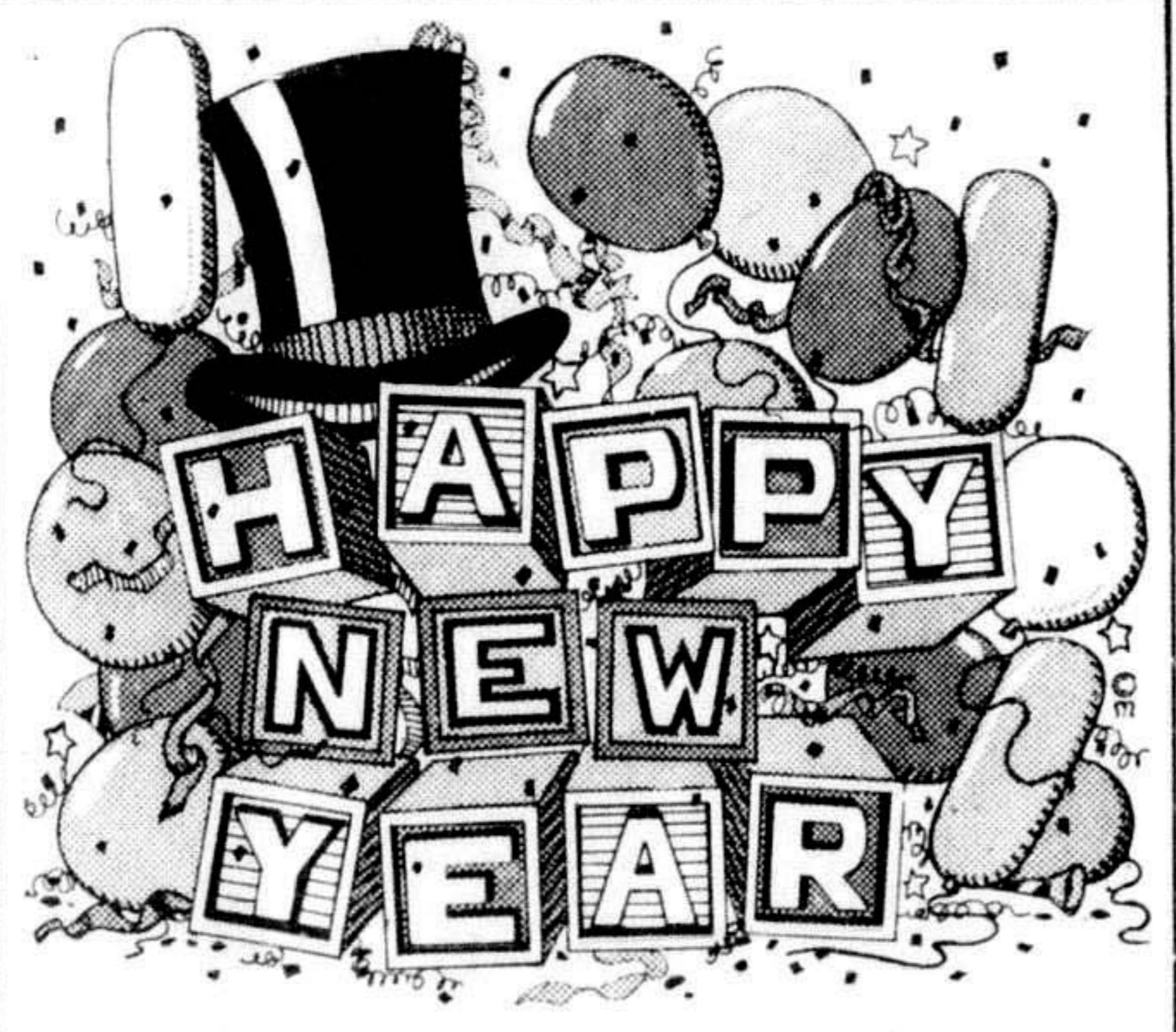


It's the New Year! Make it the dawn of many good tomorrows.

Milton Hobbycraft
Milton Mall

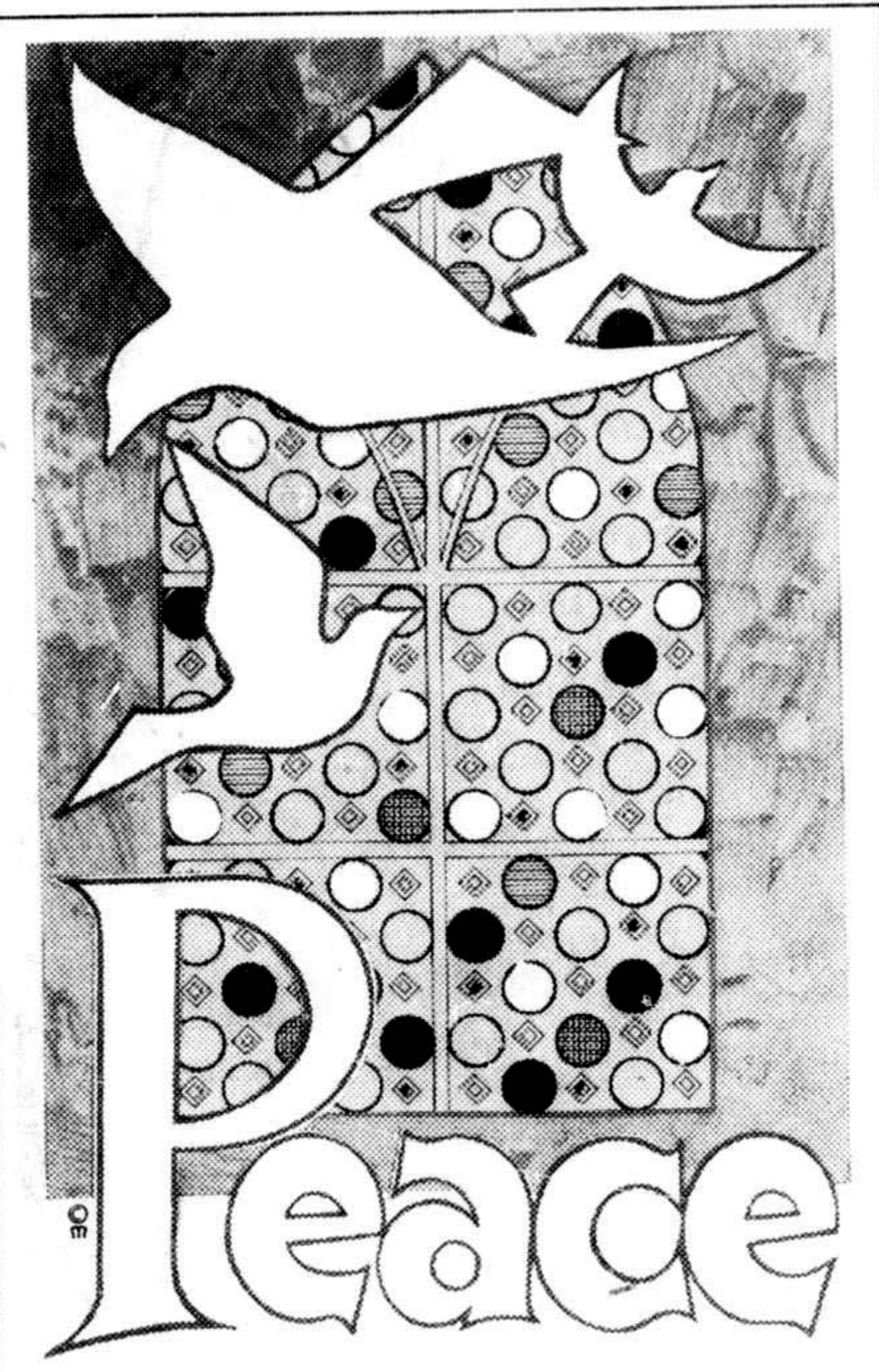


RAY GUAY
SIGNS



Ring in the New Year with an "Auld Lang Syne." Here's hoping it's rich in health, happiness, prosperity at every day's dawning.

B. E. SOUND
539 Main St. E., Milton



As we await the New Year, let's lift our hearts in a song of peace... and strive for brotherhood all over the land. May each tomorrow be rich in joy and friendship.

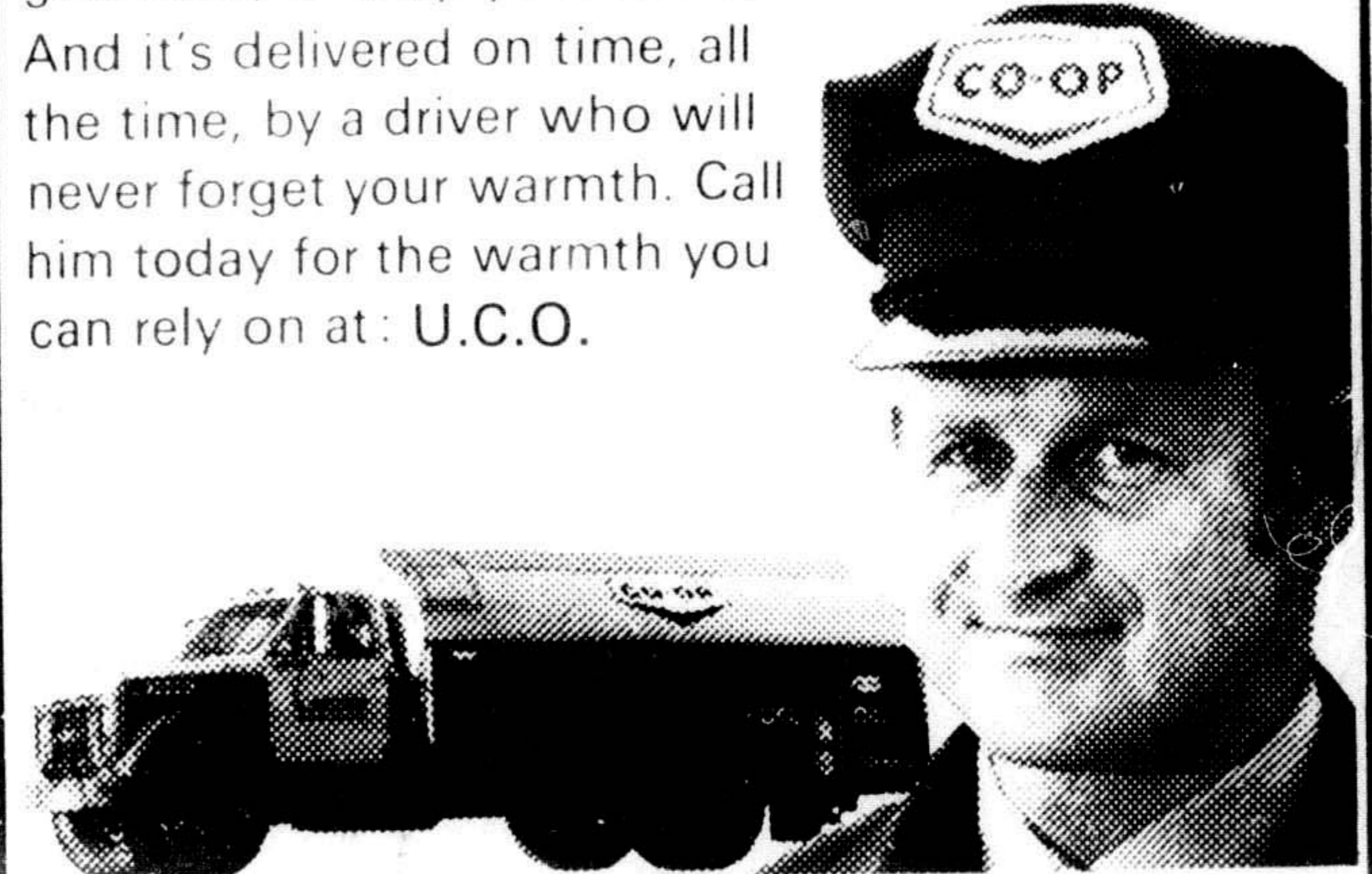
HALTON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION
44 Main St.
Milton
878-4168



MILTON HYDRO COMMISSION



Get started with CO-OP Fuel Oil Service now, and forget about the cold days and nights ahead. Formulated to the changing temperatures where you live, CO-OP Fuel Oil keeps flowing when the going gets cold, to keep your family warm all winter. And it's delivered on time, all the time, by a driver who will never forget your warmth. Call him today for the warmth you can rely on at: U.C.O.



UNITED CO-OPERATIVES OF ONTARIO
UCCO
Bronte St. Milton 878-2391