



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Liberal Julian Reed handily took the new riding of Halton in the June federal election defeating PC Ralph Scholtens, Rick Malboeuf of Reform, and candidates from the NDP and the Greens.

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Education issues tops at mid-year

1997 IN REVIEW

Milton proved once again in 1997 that small towns can be big on news.

The year brought no shortage of controversy, excitement, tragedy, unusual occurrences and change for local residents.

From the opening days in January to the closing moments of the holiday season, the community was chock full of activity.

Here's a brief rundown of happenings from the middle of the year.

MAY

- It was celebration time for parents with kids at Hornby's Percy Merry School in early May as they learned of an eleventh hour Halton Board of Education decision not to close the facility. "Yippee," exclaimed Cecil Patterson, a member of the parent council. "We're going to have a party."

Percy Merry had been among six schools short-listed for closure by the board, but in the end only three were shut, two in Burlington and one in Oakville. The board voted 12-5 to give Percy Merry a reprieve, said Milton Trustee Tim Kingsbury.

- In other school-related news, outspoken Milton Catholic Trustee Joe Deoni was leading a charge to have Holy Rosary elementary school refurbished. Mr. Deoni posed on the front of The Champion looking grimly determined as he leaned on a stairwell banister. The stairwell was used for a makeshift French class.

- The Liberal federal government was coming under fire from critics for what was seen by the opposition as an election ploy.

The Liberals announced they would put \$1.5 billion trimmed from federal health transfers back in the funding pipeline. The announcement was made one day after the June 2 federal election was called.

- Burlington MPP Cam Jackson came bearing gifts in early May as he presented \$622,222 to Allendale from Queen's Park to expand programs at the regional home for the aged in Milton.

- A Milton-born man was hoping to find his biological family and see them before losing his sight to glaucoma. Donny Wurr, 23, was supported in his search by his adoptive parents, Judith and David Wurr of Guelph.

- Tee Comm Electronics was in deep

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