

NHL needs to put own house in order: Reed

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

A federal about-face on dipping into the public purse to bail out National Hockey League (NHL) teams in Canada means Halton MP Julian Reed is once more skating in line with his party colleagues.

But he came out with both guns blazing against a January 18 announcement by Industry Minister John Manley that the feds would launch negotiations with cash-strapped hockey stakeholders.

The resulting national hoopla was enough to topple that decision. A chastened Mr. Manley delivered a follow-up announcement last Friday quashing any hope for talks between the federal government and the hockey stakeholders.

And that suited Mr. Reed, who noted the NHL should put its own house in order instead of looking to the government for a handout.

"It's an indication that the NHL itself has got to clean up its act," he said.

His stance received an avalanche of support from fed-up taxpayers dead set against having public money dumped into a sport dominated by millionaire players.

"We were deluged with calls," said Mr. Reed.

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Council considers reducing number of town politicians

By IRENE GENTLE

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Sometimes bigger is better.

And getting rid of politicians doesn't always lead to a more efficient and effective government, said Mayor Gord Krantz.

"I suspect most of us were elected to protect democracy," he said. "There's a real risk of putting too much power in too few people's hands."

Instead, democracy is best served by spreading out the power, said Mr. Krantz.

Reducing politicians is the motive behind the provincial restructuring of Toronto, Hamilton-Wentworth and Ottawa-Carleton into giant super cities.

And that's a good thing, said Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

"Basically I believe the more politicians you have, the less effective it is," he said. "Too much rhetoric is being expressed."

He cited regional council as an example, noting that heavy

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Warming up

One-year-old Tyler Mifsud gets a big hug from mom Sheila as the two towel off after a weekend AquaTot class at the Milton Leisure Centre.

Poppy box theft case postponed

By LISA CARTWRIGHT

The Champion

Legion members will have to wait until next month to hear the case against an Ontario Street woman charged with allegedly stealing poppy boxes from Oakville.

Several members of Royal Canadian Legion branch 114 in Oakville attended Milton court where Lorraine King, 24, formerly of Campbellville, appeared on charges of eight counts of theft.

"It's appalling," said Bill Allan, chair of branch 114. "Why would anyone steal from people who fought for their country? The poppy fund is meant to help people who are desperate as the years go on."

Ms King was scheduled to address the theft charges yesterday, but the case was postponed until February.

Instead, Ms King answered to another charge of fraud stemming from an October 26 incident.

Ms King wrote a \$216 cheque to Cristello's Village Market in Campbellville, but there were insufficient funds in her account.

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TUESDAY INSERTS

- Biway • Sears • Fortinos
 - Royal Mattress • Lazy Boy
 - Pizza Hut • Business Depot
 - Dr. Green Lawn Care
 - Seniors on Watch
- *Selected areas only

TIP OF THE MONTH:

If Your Dog Had Arthritis, Would You Know What To Look For?

If dogs could talk, helping them remain active family members would be a lot easier. But they can't tell us if they are stiff after exercise or if they simply hurt. They are counting on you to recognize the signs of pain and decreased mobility and bring them to your veterinarian's attention. Numerous dogs suffer from the pain of arthritis. However, many go undiagnosed because owners attribute the subtle changes in their pet to "old age". An arthritic dog may exhibit one or more of the following signs: stiffness and lameness while walking, occasional whining and/or whimpering, pain if an affected joint is touched, a relaxed position preferred over a standing position, slow or difficulty in rising, trouble climbing stairs, reluctance to run or jump.

Dogs can't tell your veterinarian they have arthritis, but you can if you know the signs.

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