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Reed on campaign trail with industry minister

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

It isn't often that Captain Canada makes a pit stop in Milton.

But that benevolent blur some may have witnessed whirling down Main Street Wednesday was Halton Liberal MP candidate Julian Reed, accompanied by Federal Industry Minister Brian Tobin.

The pair launched out of Mr. Reed's 159 Main St. campaign office in the morning and proceeded to blow in and out of a

series of shops and banks along the way.

"We can't miss these people. They sell futons," remarked Mr. Tobin before plunging into the nearest store front.

Mr. Reed was accompanied by his wife and brother, as well as a camera crew which has been busily memorializing the election in Halton for CBC's The National.

Mr. Tobin, who came to national prominence when he took on Spanish fishing boats in the 1990s, proved an old hand at the grip and grin, offering quips and posing for photographs without seeming to slow the breakneck pace.

Their welcome was a warm one. Stumbling into a number of people from his home province of Newfoundland, Mr. Tobin marveled "my constituents are all here."

And one Scotiabank customer told Mr. Tobin she hopes to see him as prime minister one day.

The former Newfoundland premier appeared to amuse some and befuddle other residents by warmly pumping their hands up and down while joking "Tell me the truth. I look a little taller, don't I?"

The two candidates were mutually complimentary, with Mr. Reed claiming Mr. Tobin's presence in the riding "is solid gold. How can you miss? Especially when you have so many transplanted Maritimers."

Mr. Tobin returned the favour by com-

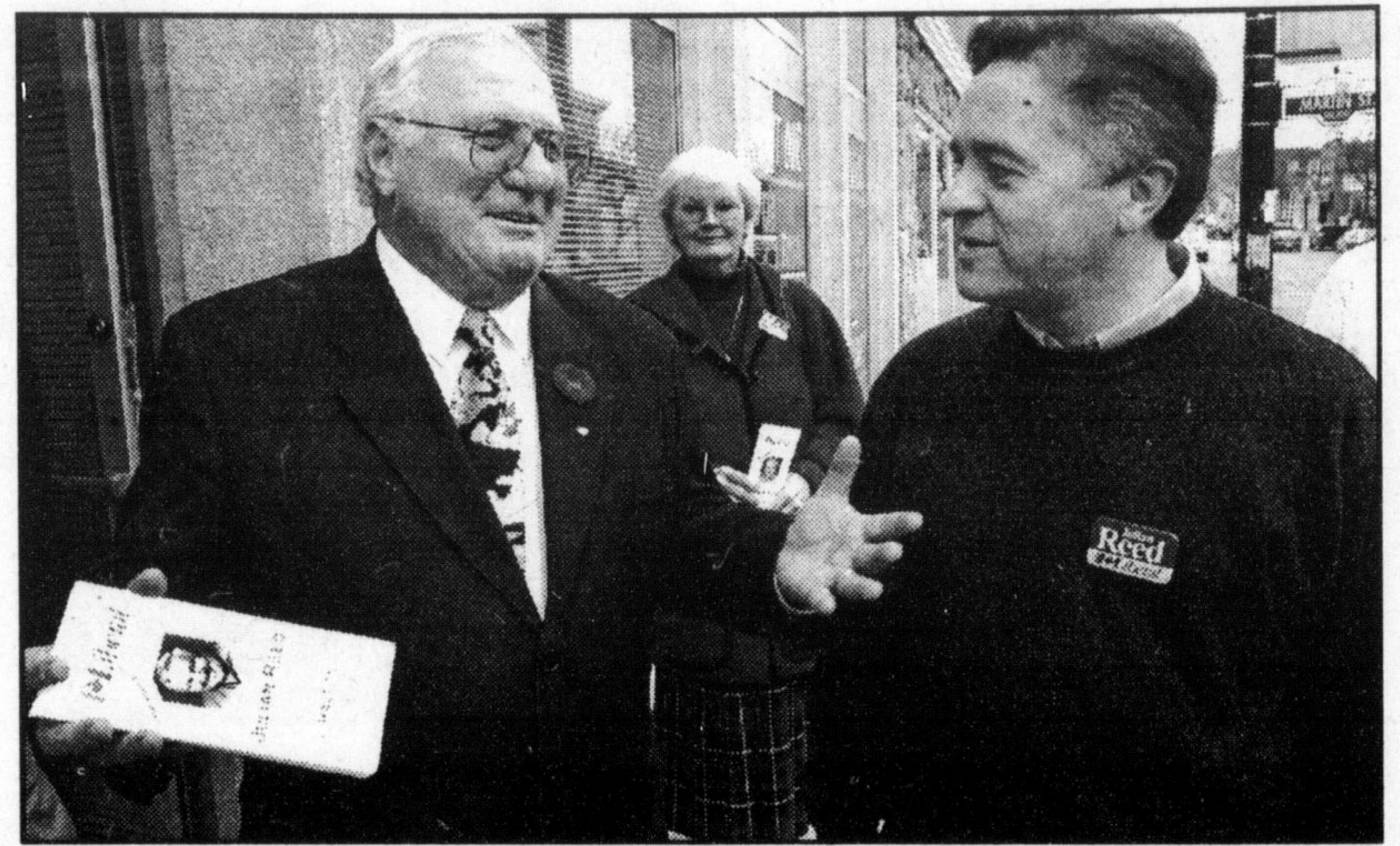


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Halton MP Julian Reed (left) talks shop with Industry Minister Brian Tobin, who visited Milton Wednesday to help open Mr. Reed's Main Street campaign office.

menting "I'm wondering why he (Mr. Reed) isn't campaigning with me, because the reception he's getting is really quite wonderful."

The two capped off their Main Street sprint by dropping into the Baker's Dozen and Shoppers Drug Mart at Carriage Square.

They were then off to Derlan Aerospace Inc. for a tour.

Before climbing in the van that would whisk them in that direction, the two candidates got serious about emphasizing the importance of Federal repayable business loans in bolstering the new economy.

And Mr. Tobin took the opportunity to blast the Canadian Alliance for promising to do away with the loans.

"They're looking to wipe out my entire department," said an incredulous-sounding

Mr. Tobin.

He took a swipe at what he characterized as the Alliance's ever-changing platform, saying "as you know, they're dealing with two sets of books, but in both those books, they want to wipe out these programs."

That just doesn't make sense, noted Mr. Reed. "This runs counter to every other developed nation in the world. We believe in it. It works."

Both men pointed to Derlan, which they said has provided about \$135 million in industrial benefits to Canada through a breakthrough in the making of helicopter rotors.

"Someone who says that doesn't matter is someone who isn't ready to govern," said Mr. Tobin.

The federal election will take place November 27.

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