

# Chudleigh calling on feds to step up health funding

MPP writes letter to Julian Reed

By FANNIE SUNSHINE  
The Champion

If the federal government is unable to make personal tax cuts then taxpayers' money should be directed to health care, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh stated in a letter to Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed.

"Given the huge pressures on health care in Ontario and indeed across Canada I call on you and your colleagues in the Government of Canada to restore the necessary funds to meet the original 50-50 cost-sharing agreement on health care between the federal government and the Provinces," Mr. Chudleigh wrote in a May 14 letter to the MP. "Currently the federal government is only providing 14 cents of every health care dollar in Ontario."

With health care costs rising, it's apparent the current direction is unsustainable, he said. "Restoration of the federal government's 50-50 cost sharing commitment to health care allows a much more flexible response to health care requirements."

But Mr. Reed said Mr. Chudleigh's information is outdated because the personal tax cut stands at 21 per cent.

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**TED CHUDLEIGH**

"I was just listening to (Minister of Finance) Paul Martin's fiscal update and the average personal tax cut is 21 per cent," Mr. Reed said. "That's the largest in history — \$17 billion in 2001-02. Ted's information is six months out of date. Fourteen cents isn't an accurate reflection."

A health care spending statement last fall indicated a \$1 billion com-

mitment by the federal government for purchase of new equipment, he added.

"It's true we reduced health care spending in 1995," Mr. Reed said. "We made severe cuts in the delivery of transfer payments to the Province. Canadians have paid the price. Now we've restored the finances to the country. The efforts Canadians made for accepting cuts puts us in a more healthy situation than the Americans. We're in pretty good shape. The price we paid is paying off."

Mr. Reed added the federal government already addressed the short and medium-term financial pressures on the health care system with an \$18 billion boost to health funding in last year's Health Action Plan. "The Province alone receives more than \$7 billion. That's a little more than 14 cents."

Mr. Chudleigh argued Canadians deserved a tax break since the federal government received a \$16 billion surplus instead of the \$9 billion expected surplus. "I believe the taxpayers deserve to have a windfall. Even \$2.2 billion from that surplus would be sufficient enough to put into the health care budget. We have to recognize the hard Ontario worker deserves recognition and deserves a tax break."

## Careless smoking causes fire

A basement fire at an Eighth Line residence caused minimal damage Friday morning.

While unconfirmed at the holiday press deadline Friday, the fire is believed to have been caused by a burning cigarette left on a basement couch.

Sofa cushions caught fire in the morning blaze and Milton Fire Department responded to the rural residence at about 4:47 a.m.

They battled back the blaze in under a half-hour. Roughly \$1,000 damage was caused.

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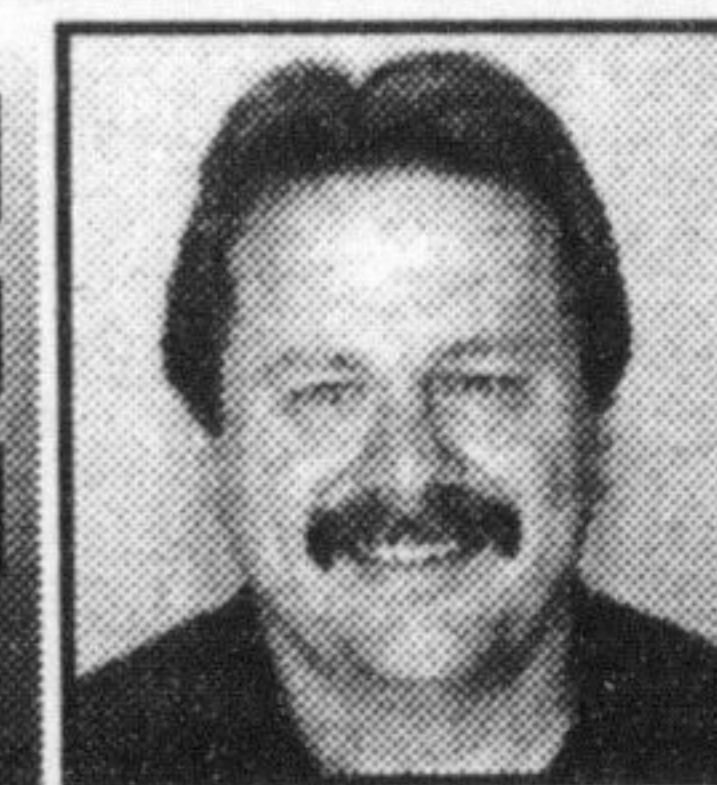
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Many thanks to the businesses and organizations that supported a successful good neighbours community day.

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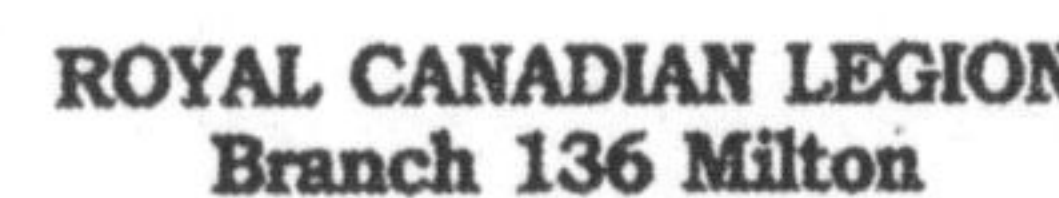
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A special thanks to the many individuals and organizations who volunteered to assist those who are unable to perform household tasks and who cleaned up the various sites and along the riverbanks. The people of the Town of Milton are very appreciative of your valuable contribution. The 9th Annual Milton Good Neighbours Community Day is May 4, 2002.