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Youth symphony seeks Milton musicians
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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 144 NO. 98 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 32 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Bears that care

From left, Canadian Champion sales co-ordinator Brigit Atkinson, Halton Women's Place director of development Heather Thomas, Champion sales representative Colleen Gorman and Milton Fire Department training technician Barry Kory surround themselves with the 100 bears donated by local businesses and organizations in the 'Bears That Care' initiative spear-headed by the community newspaper. The bears will be given to children in crisis by the Milton Fire Department and Halton Women's Place.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

MP Reed decides to leave politics

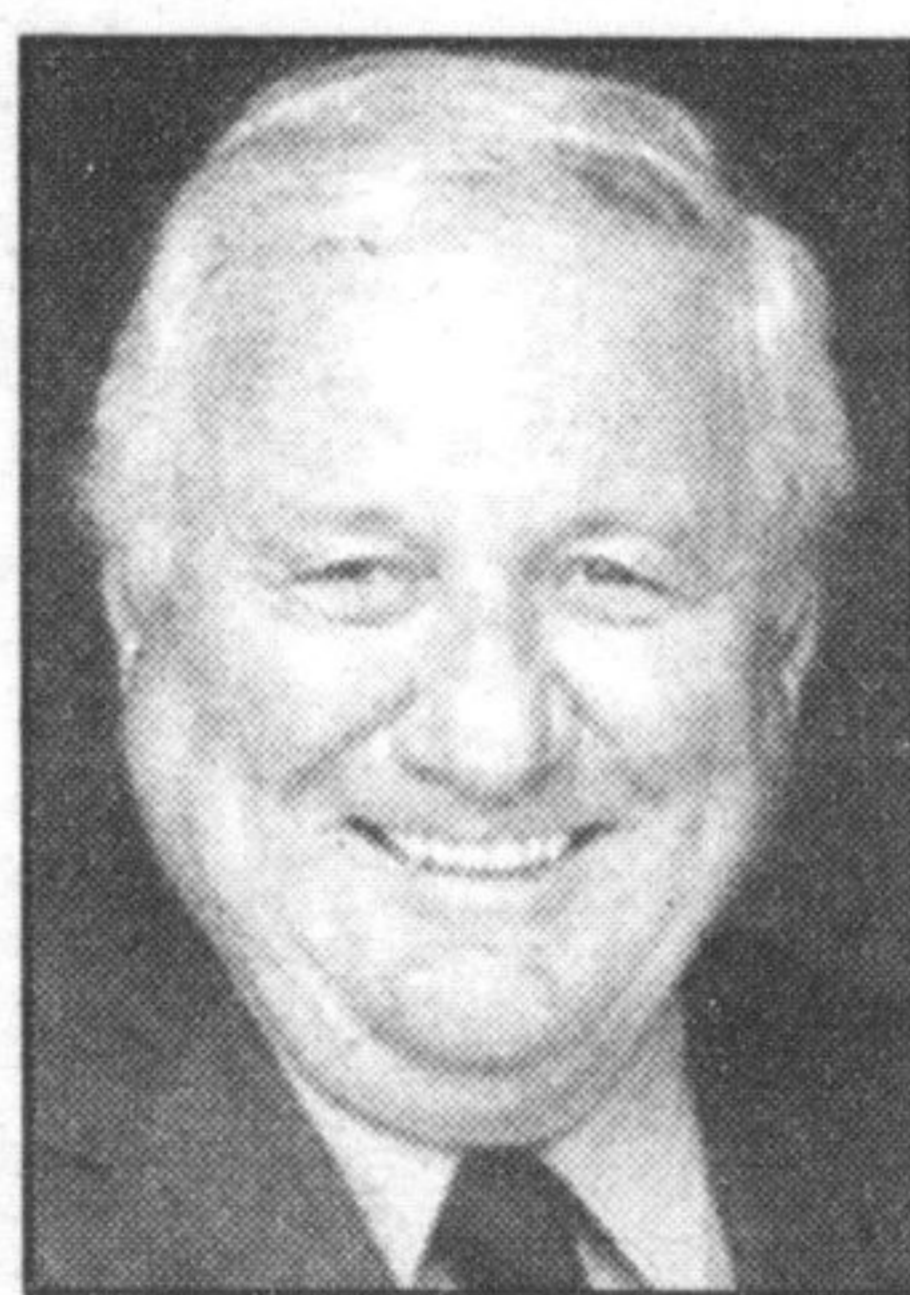
By JASON MISNER
The Champion

For the first time in more than a decade, Halton riding will have a new representative on Parliament Hill.

Halton Liberal MP Julian Reed, 68, announced Tuesday morning that he won't be seeking a fourth seat in the next federal election. The reasons are simple, he said.

Before getting into politics, Mr. Reed was, and has remained, a professional actor. He said the acting bug has grown stronger of late, and he also wants to spend more time at home with his wife, Deanna, of 44 years.

Regularly leaving Sunday night for Ottawa and not returning until late in the week has become more difficult, he said.



Julian Reed

of my ability."

He stressed his decision not to run again has nothing to do with the sponsorship scandal plaguing his current government, or of his past support of Jean Chretien as Prime Minister.

"If some of these other pressures hadn't been there, I would still be enjoying politics," he said, noting he auditioned for the lead character, Tevye, in the production of the Fiddler on the Roof in Toronto last week. "The people of Halton have been so good to me. I enjoyed serving them to the best

Mr. Reed, first elected into political office as a provincial Liberal MPP in 1975, said he was "tempted" to vie again for the Halton seat because of the scandal "to stay and face the fire."

Mr. Reed said he personally told Prime Minister Paul Martin of his decision Tuesday.

"He said he was sorry that I was deciding to go and he said to me, 'I hope you stay until the next election.'"

An election, which has been rumoured to be called in the spring, is "way up in the air for obvious reasons," he said.

Peter Duffus, the only other candidate vying for the Liberal nomination for Halton riding, wasn't aware of Mr. Reed's decision. He said "he has served our party well. He has had a very distinguished career."

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- Leon's Furniture* • Dell Computers* • Sobey's*
- News 4 Kids* • Bell Consumer* • Acton Sobey's*
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