

Julian Reed jumps back into politics

By LISA TALLYN
Special to The Champion

After a seven-year absence from the provincial political arena, Julian Reed has decided to take a stab at federal politics.

The former MPP for Halton-Burlington (1975-1985) has announced he will stand for the Liberal nomination in Halton-Peel in the next federal election.

Mr. Reed is the lone nominee with the meeting set for Friday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Church hall in Georgetown.

Mr. Reed, 56, who has lived in Norval most of his life, says he had to do a lot of thinking before he decided to jump back into politics.

"There were a whole number of things that converged together and made me decide," said Mr. Reed. "For about a year and a half I had been approached by a number of people in the riding asking if I'd consider running. I refused to even consider it, because I had been there and I know what the commitment is."

Mr. Reed says he changed his mind after he met with federal Liberal Party leader Jean Chretien in Toronto about a year ago.

"We talked for about an hour and a half. I was quite impressed and came away with the impression that there was nobody any more committed to Canada than he was. He has a genuine concern for the future of the country."

A conversation with his longtime friend, MP Jim Peter-

son from Willowdale, convinced him to run.

"I asked him what was happening in Ottawa and he said it was disintegrating and (to get back into politics) you really have to be concerned about the future of the country. If I stood back in the wings and didn't offer any alternative in the riding I figured I would have nothing to bitch about."

Mr. Reed has kept himself busy since he retired from provincial politics in 1985. For about a year-and-a-half he worked as an executive assistant

to Vincent Kerrio, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

Over the past few years he's been developing a small hydro power project near Gooderham, Ontario on the Irondale River (Reed Energy Corp.) The power plant should be producing power in about a year. He has also been attempting to develop a five-acre parcel of land he owns in Norval for a subdivision.

Mr. Reed has revived his acting career. He has recently appeared in *Street Legal* and is scheduled to appear in an upcoming episode of *Scales of Justice*.

He plans to put all of that on hold come election time.

The former MPP isn't certain yet when an election will be called, but he suspects it may be this fall.

Although he says it is early in the game to be making predictions, he suspects the next election will be a battle between the Conservatives and the Liberals.



Julian Reed

'Disillusioned' PC in race for Reform Party candidacy

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

The race to carry the Reform Party banner in Halton-Peel during the next federal election now features four potential candidates with the announcement by Milton's Don Pelz that he is a contender.

A self-proclaimed disillusioned Progressive Conservative, Mr. Pelz says he has found a new home in the Reform Party and been revitalized to the extent he hopes to carry the riding for the upstart movement.

"I was a strong Conservative all my life, but I'm totally disenchanted," said the 60-year-old former business executive. Casting about for an alternative, he gravitated to Reform, read the party policy book and took in a speech by national leader Preston Manning.

Reform stances mirrored his own sentiments, he recalled in a telephone interview Wednesday. "I said, this is exactly the way I feel."

It marks Mr. Pelz's first foray into federal politics. He ran unsuccessfully for Milton municipal council in 1991, and prior to that once contested a seat on Mississauga council, also unsuccessfully.

Mr. Pelz, who has lived in Milton for the past 17 years, will compete against at least three other people for the Reform nomination on October 14. They are Campbell Mc-

Leish, Dick MacDuffee and Timothy Sinnott.

Rarely without a strong opinion on a given topic, Mr. Pelz said Reform has "a 90 per cent chance" of wresting Halton-Peel away from Progressive Conservative Garth Turner. "There's no other choice."

Mr. Turner "had great potential but he blew it," Mr. Pelz said, characterizing the incumbent as having had to retreat "with his tail between his legs" due to party pressure. "Now he says 'yes sir, no sir, how high sir?' They'd be better off to put another candidate in."

An advocate of financial restraint, Mr. Pelz drew examples of what he saw as irresponsible spending from his own immediate area, deploring the Town of Milton's recent decision to commit \$2.6 million to its leisure centre addition. "I'm really brassed off. How the hell can they blow another \$2 million?"

He also charged it was "asinine" for Toronto area MPPs, such as Halton North's Noel Duignan, to keep apartments in the city while living within commuting distance of Queen's Park. "I worked in Barrie and (commuting) was never a problem. That's a cop-out."

The candidate deplored the current state of the economy. Mr. Pelz is a real estate agent as well as business consultant. He said he has presented properties to prospective buyers

with prices halved from pre-recession levels and mortgage rates at 6.5 per cent. "I ask them, 'what more do you want?' They say, 'a job, please.'"

Having just done charity fundraising that involved as many as 600 phone calls a day, Mr. Pelz said "there is a feeling out there you would not believe. It's worse than a lot of people are admitting."

While polls indicate Reform is stalled at less than 15 per cent popular support following a period of rapid growth, Mr. Pelz said he's not overly concerned. "Surveys can be slanted by the people that run them, they can be manipulated."



Don Pelz

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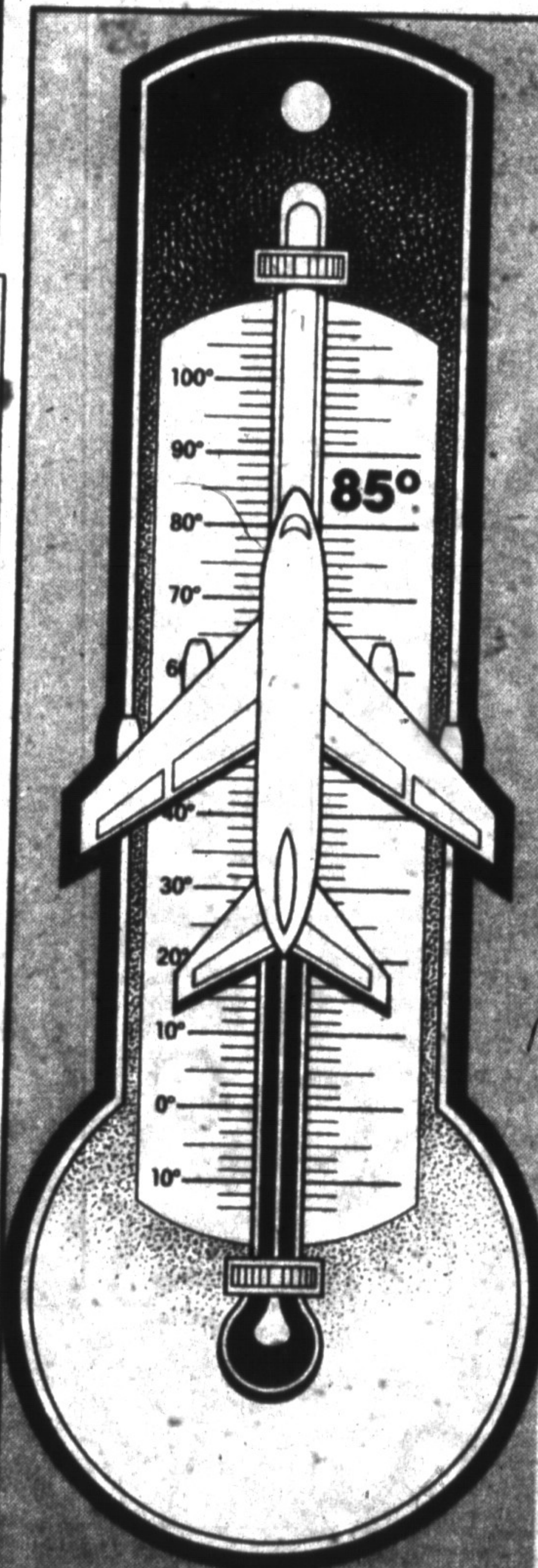
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