

# He wants to carry Reform banner again

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Pleased with progress the Reform Party has made Rick Malboeuf, Reform's Oakville-Milton candidate in the 1993 federal election, is seeking the local nod again.

The Milton resident is currently the only candidate chasing the Reform nomination for the new Halton riding, which includes Milton, Halton Hills and some northern sections of Burlington and Oakville.

The Reform Party has focussed on economic issues during its short existence according to Mr. Malboeuf, and its recently announced six-point plan: A Fresh Start for Canadians, continues along that line.

"The plan was put together after discussions with people across the country," said Mr. Malboeuf. "Mainly we are looking to reduce debt and lower taxes. It can be accomplished by reducing the size of government."

The six-point plan includes shrinking government, tax relief, a tougher stance on crime, repairs to the social safety net and a strong position on national unity.

Mr. Malboeuf agreed the Progressive Conservative Party and Reform are fighting over the same voters, with the resulting split serving up the governing Liberals another opportunity to gain a majority government without the corresponding general support.

Despite the official party platform, Mr. Malboeuf said that there has to be a merger between the two parties if there is to be an effective political force representing the conservative voter.

"Once the campaign starts the (former Prime Minister Brian) Mulroney shadow will still be cast over the Progressive

**"The diehards think the Conservative Party can be resurrected but after this election one party will go away."**

**RICHARD MALBOEUF**



Conservatives," he said. "Conservative Party support is weak. It is our task to convince them to vote Reform. I've been advocating a merger since 1993. The diehards think the Conservative Party can be resurrected but after this election one party will certainly go away."

Mr. Malboeuf said with 20 per cent support across the country the Progressive Conservatives may not win any seats in the next election. He predicted party leader Jean Charest will lose his seat.

"Progressive Conservatives have been asked by their leader to set aside their principles for the good of the (Tory) party," he said. "I ask Conservatives, shouldn't they set aside their party and keep their principles?"

Reform is launching its campaign early in anticipation of a summer or early fall election. Mr. Malboeuf acknowledged the similarities between Reform's new six-point plan and the Common Sense Revolution, launched by the Harris government in Ontario.

"The Harris plan was similar to our Blue Book plan of 1993," he said. "That's one reason why I'm personally opposed to

Reform running a provincial campaign." The Reform script calls for a \$15 billion cut in federal spending by eliminating several government departments and privatizing some Crown corporations.

Mr. Malboeuf explained that cuts to civil service jobs announced by the Liberal government resulted in many employees being hired back as contract workers. He said a Reform government would look at all Crown commissions, boards and agencies with an eye on cost cutting.

Mr. Malboeuf said if Reform does not win the election they will at least form the official opposition. He suggested that Bloc Québécois support is as solid as it will get, while Reform should be able to gain support in Ontario, where the party currently has only one seat.

Another key issue is national unity, according to Mr. Malboeuf. He said Reform would provide the conditions attached to secession from Canada so voters in any future referendum would know exactly what was at stake.

"We are being attacked because we are not a national party but loyalty is not based on one's ability to speak French," said Mr.

Malboeuf, a bilingual former Quebecker. "We've been governed for 28 of the last 30 years by the Liberal Party." • see MALBOEUF on page 10

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