

A-Cobourg - Legal System (07-08)

Clarke sworn in as judge at Milton

By KAY MANN

Former Cobourg lawyer James Clarke was officially sworn in as a county court judge yesterday at the Milton court house.

The Hon. W.D. Lyon, chief judge of the county and district courts of the counties and districts of Ontario, presided at the ceremony, assisted by the Hon. A.M. Carter, senior judge for District 3, and the Hon. James Carnwath, senior judge for the judicial district of Halton.

Judge Lyon said a heavy responsibility now rests on the person assuming this office. "It also marks a significant turning point in his life which will affect his liberty as a citizen. One of the rights which he will not be able to exercise now, will be his right to vote," said the chief judge.

The oaths of office which Judge Clarke took will allow him to preside over criminal and civil trials. As a local judge in

the trial division of the Supreme court, Judge Clarke will hear divorce cases, custody of children, division of assets and construction lien actions involving large amounts of money. Judge Clarke was also sworn as a local master of the Supreme court and judge of the surrogate court, giving him special jurisdiction to deal with wills, claims against executors and to audit accounts. The last oath Judge Clarke took was the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Hon. W.D. Lyon said Judge Clarke may be asked to sit in any of 49 courts in the province. There are 144 full time

and 20 supernumerary (part time) county court judges in Ontario.

Following the Oaths of Office, Sheriff Robert M. Sprowl gowned Judge Clarke in a black robe bordered in mauve, with a mauve sash. He led him up to the dais where he was welcomed by the presiding senior judges.

Chief Judge Lyon congratulated Judge Clarke and told him he was fortunate to have such a change in his career in mid-life. Adding a bit of levity to the ceremony, Judge Lyon said Judge Clarke could now sit on the bench looking serene, but underneath he would be "padding like mad to stay

afloat," when making his decisions. The chief judge also informed the new judge he would no longer be able to be involved in political events, cannot engage in business activities, and his social life will also reflect his new duties. Judge Clarke must not be withdrawn or lose touch with society, stressed the chief judge.

Halton judicial district is the largest jurisdiction outside of Metro Toronto, the chief judge noted.

Judge Clarke was congratulated by various members of the bar who were present. Among them were Brian Hanna, Halton and County

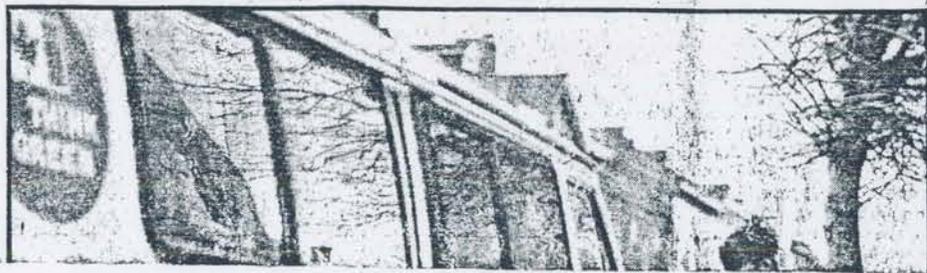
Law Association, Port Hope's Gordon C. Kelly, Q.C. president Northumberland Law Association, Roy Plante, Q.C. Canadian Bar Association, Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven, Q.C., Crown Attorneys Association.

Judge Clarke is filling a vacancy left by Judge Kenneth Blair who has retired.

In his remarks, Judge Clarke said with tongue in cheek, that after 23 years of marriage he is now going to be able to make decisions. Clarke, who celebrated his fiftieth birthday on Wednesday, considers his appointment an honor and a trust.

The Clarke family, which includes his mother, Flora Clarke, Mississauga, his wife Mary, daughters, Joy, Mira, Adele, Marilyn and son, Paul, as well as sister Marilyn Francis and her husband Edward, Mississauga, were on hand for the occasion.

Also attending the ceremony were 28 county and provincial court judges and 59 lawyers from the Halton county Law Association and about 35 lawyers and court personnel with their families from Northumberland County. A reception at the court house and another at the Harrop House followed the ceremony.



GRCA in middle of towns, province

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) is like "the monkey in the middle" because of the province's insistence that floodplain maps be adopted by municipalities, an

town's official plan by consulting engineers Totten Sims Hubicki Associates Ltd.

Both Hancock and John McDermott, Cobourg's planning consultant, spoke of co-



NEW ROBES OF OFFICE were worn for the first time by the newly sworn-in Judge James H. Clarke, yesterday. More than a busload of friends and legal colleagues of the new judge went from Northumberland County to wish him well in his new job in the jurisdiction of Milton. See story on page 2.

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