



Ross Township Council was sworn in at its inaugural meeting last Wednesday. Seated are Deputy-Reeve Jack Ferguson and Reeve Alvin Stone. Standing are Councillors Don Rathwell, Bill Gibson and Vic McLaughlin. *De. 11/91*

Two new Ross councillors debut at inaugural meeting

Ross Township Reeve Alvin Stone welcomed two new councillors and praised the past councillors at the inaugural council meeting last Wednesday.

The reeve said that Pat Krose and Joe Kowalski, who lost their seats in last month's municipal election, had been very involved in helping to define a direction for the township for the next 20 years.

"I will spend time helping the new councillors (Vic McLaughlin and Bill Gibson)," said Reeve Stone. "They should come into the office to look at the bylaws and old minutes. I recommend that you start at the back of the bylaw book because that's where the new bylaws are."

The reeve told council to be very conscious of the conflict of interest issue. "The act is currently being amended to also include staff members, he added."

Reeve Stone said the township's

zoning bylaws are in the process of being approved.

"I would like to have the Renfrew County planner here for a tour," he said. "Council members should take the road tour to see what has been done and what can be done in the future."

Deputy-Reeve Jack Ferguson also welcomed the new councillors.

"I enjoyed working with the old council and I will enjoy working with the new council," he said. "We'll get along fine."

Coun. Don Rathwell, the only incumbent to be re-elected, said the council of the last six years made a lot of accomplishments, including the township garage complex.

"I've enjoyed the way council has operated," said Coun. Rathwell. "In the next three years there will be other projects and I'm sure they will be just as successful."

Coun. Vic McLaughlin, who led the

polls in the election, said he looked forward to working with council and the municipal staff.

"I will try to do the best job to the best of my abilities," he said.

Coun. Bill Gibson, who won after a recount and a rare tie in which his name was drawn, said he was definitely interested in working together with council.

"If people are more informed about things, they'll have fewer concerns," he said.

The new councillors first motion was to vote in favour of accepting the November roads voucher in the amount of \$43,915.22.

The new councillors will also be attending their first seminar next month in Pembroke. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) seminar is specifically designed to introduce new councillors to municipal politics.