

New County Court Judge

Swear in Judge Alan B. Sprague

On Friday, April 9th, Alan B. Sprague, formerly of Belleville, was officially sworn in and welcomed as Halton's new county court judge. Over 150 guests, including district judges, law association members, county councillors, Halton employees, friends and members of the family attended the ceremony and a reception which followed.

His Honor Chief Judge A. R. Willmut presided over the swearing-in ceremony and Judge J. C. Anderson, County of Hastings judge before whom Judge Sprague had appeared on many occasions, administered the oath. Six other district judges looked on from the jurors' section, wearing their unadorned robes.

Rev. J. L. Graham gave the invocation and benediction, and Sheriff Andrew W. Frank, assisted by deputy sheriff Mac Sprawl, ushered the new judge into the chambers and assisted him in putting on his robes.

Judge Willmut said it was fitting at this time to recall the character and achievements of the late Judge George E. Elliott who had occupied the bench in Halton until his death a few months ago. He praised the late judge's qualities of "courage, compassion and competence" and expressed sympathy to his widow.

Judge Anderson said he was honored to have a man from his bar appointed to this county, and called Judge Sprague "a hard worker, very industrious, a man whose practice has gained a wide respect. He will serve this historic county well."

Warden Herb Merry extended "the smile of friendship and the hand of welcome" to Judge Sprague on behalf of the County. Hughes Cleaver, representing the Law Association as its senior practising member, paid tribute to the late Judge Elliott for "the work he did and his courtesy toward the bar... he was fair and courteous to all and we are grateful for his opportunity to serve the county." He also read telegrams of congratulations to the new judge from M.P. Dr. Harry Harley and the Hon. William J. Palmerston, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Presenting Pins

Ross Rvrie, president of the Halton Law Association, presented an engraved desk pen set to Judge Sprague.

Assuming his seat on the bench, Judge Sprague also paid tribute to the late Judge Elliott and expressed sympathy to his widow

and family. "It will not be easy, but will be a quick process for me to fit his mantle over my shoulder," he said. He also expressed appreciation to Chief Judge Willmut for his personal concern, cooperation and assistance in making the move to Halton and to the Law Association, the Warden and Staff, and others who participated in the ceremony.

"Not Easy"

"My 27 years at the Bar should remind me that this presently pleasant prevailing air of unanimity is not likely to extend beyond the closing of these ceremonies, but those experienced in the law will know that professional contention, dispute, differences of opinion and the tilting and the jousting of the trial are of the very sinews of our legal process, and I know it is not always easy to be academic and strictly professional and objective in the heat of battle. I sincerely hope we shall together maintain and strengthen the high traditions of our Courts for professional decorum and courtesy and an absence of personal animosities," he urged.

"I shall endeavour to perform my duties as a Judge in every respect according to the highest traditions and demands of that high office, and I am sure with the cooperation and assistance of the learned Counsel and Members of the Bar of this County I shall be afforded the same sort of endeavour from my Bar, with integrity, complete honesty, an absence of evasion, equivocation and personal animosities."

"I shall endeavour within the confines of my mental and physical capacities to keep the wheels of justice grinding out not only well but as quickly as possible because I believe that 'JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED'."

Splendid Building

"To the Warden of my new County and all municipal representatives here, I extend my

greetings and I think you for your presence here. This fine Court room where we are gathered today, this splendid modern utilitarian building is cogent evidence of the place the administration of Justice holds in your minds. It is an outward and visible sign — a symbol and a monument — to the invisible thinking and tradition of the duly elected representatives of The County of Halton which was brought first to these counties like Halton, Hastings and Prince Edward by men who know the real true meaning and value of words such as liberty, justice and democracy."

"I would like to close these remarks with a passage which

struck me as I was reading the diary of the late Dag Hammarskjöld, erstwhile Secretary General of the United Nations in which he says: "ONLY HE DESERVES POWER WHOEVER JUSTIFIES IT"

Following the ceremony, the Sarah Martin and John Milton Chapters of the IOBE, served refreshments in the cafeteria of the building, and the Judge and his family mingled with the guests to exchange greetings. His mother, wife, sons Jim and Edward, daughter Jenny, brother Fred M. Sprague and Mrs. Sprague from Belleville, and father-in-law Joe Lake and Mrs. Lake attended.

In The Pink?

Halton County is "in the pink" according to a new Ontario Department of Highways 1965 official road map. The distribution of the new map began recently and special color backgrounds have been introduced for each county or district. Halton is colored pink.

The Halton section of the map outlines the five towns plus Eden Mills, Campbellville, Hornby, Terra Cotta, Morval, Palmerston and Brombe. Milton Heights is not shown on the map. The new map is free at any of the D.H.O. offices or the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Fortunally Affected

First Actor — "I can't get my shoes on!"

Second Ditto — "What! Feet swelled, too?"



CONSOLATION WINNERS in the Legion dart league, Comets were cited Saturday, April 10, at their annual banquet. Winners include captain Earl Beerman, Harry Hawkins, Fred Allen, John Goy, Floyd Zeigler, Jack Ballentine, Jack Couture and Bart Leather.



REPORT FROM QUEEN'S PARK

— BY —
GEORGE A. KERR
HALTON M.L.A.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Lydia Dredge

Mrs. Lydia Dredge of Haltonville, wife of the late William Dredge, died at her home in Nasagaweva on April 8 after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Dredge, who celebrated her 96th birthday on December 18, had lived in Nasagaweva for 65 years.

Born in Toronto, Mrs. Dredge lived in Painswick and Milton, then after her marriage lived at St. Helena (Speyville) before moving to live with her son George at Haltonville (R.R. 2 Rockwood). Her husband died about 15 years ago. Mrs. Dredge had been active in church work and had enjoyed quilting. She was described by friends as being "lovable, kind and generous."

She is survived by her seven children, Roy of New Rochelle, New York; Mabel (Mrs. T. G. Morton) of Toronto; Hazel (Mrs. Mike McConnell) of Milton; Austin of Burlington; Ethel (Mrs. William Job) of Palmerston; George of R.R. 2 Rockwood and Kathleen (Mrs. E. Tindale) of R.R. 3 Georgetown.

Rev. J. Schrieff officiated at funeral services in Nasagaweva Presbyterian Church Sunday, April 11 and interment was in the adjoining cemetery. Pallbearers were grandsons Bob, Bill and Ted Dredge, Murray and Wayne McConnell and David Tindale.

(Intended for last week)

In submitting his 1965 estimates last week, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Wilfred Spouner, drew the attention of the Legislature to some rather significant statistics. It is particularly significant because of the fact that certain municipalities in the Province and indeed in Halton County, have set their mill rate for this year and have indicated an increase in taxes.

These statistics reveal a substantial increase in revenue, population and assessment.

Revenue Increased

In 1953 the revenue of the municipalities across Ontario amounted to \$327 million; in 1963 it was \$274 million, an increase of 167 per cent. In the same period net provincial revenue rose from \$364.5 million in 1953 to \$1.1 billion in 1963, an increase of 200 per cent.

Grants paid by the province to municipalities, boards (including school boards) and commissions during this period increased from \$137.5 million in 1953 to \$438 million in 1964, an increase of 218 per cent. Assistance to local municipalities will be further increased by 1965 to \$480 million to a total of \$620.4 million. This represents 47 per cent of the province's net ordinary revenue compared to 39 per cent in 1953.

Statistics also show an increase in the number of municipalities from 966 in 1953 to 976 at present.

Special emphasis was placed by Mr. Spouner on the need for local, County and regional planning during the debate on the estimates. Municipalities are realizing

that if efficiency is to be maintained, if duplication of costs is to be prevented and proper use of land be established, planning is a vital necessity.

The Department has had considerable difficulty in getting municipalities to assume planning responsibility. As of January 1st, 1965, some 150 planning boards out of a total of 385 were inactive.

Principal Obstacles

One of the principal obstacles to be overcome in planning is the multiplicity of governing bodies. There are in Ontario 979 municipalities, 39 counties, 30 cities, 8 separated towns, 150 townships, 575 township municipalities, 20 improvement districts, 11 districts, 3,053 school boards and thousands of other boards and commissions with the result that for improvements, no matter how simple, many bodies have to be consulted before a common plan can be devised. One can well realize how difficult it is to get even twenty or twenty-five chairmen to agree.

We have witnessed a steady growth in administrative regions by the various departments of Government, each with its own field representatives and with no boundary relationship.

Agriculture has maintained a regional policy based on the county as a unit. On the other hand, Lands and Forests has 22 regions based on geographical and physical characteristics, tourism has 32, and a recent development by the Department of Reform Institutions involves the establishment of district jails to replace the old county jail. We now have district high schools and Conservation Authorities whose authority is not restricted to county or municipal boundaries.

The one public body, which is in a position and has the authority in many respects to develop planning on a regional basis is the County Council, and in the days ahead, if the present policy of the Honourable Wilfred Spouner and his department is followed, more and more responsibility will be placed in the hands of this level of government.

LIMEHOUSE

Wedding, Cards Illness in News

We are pleased that Mrs. Donald Johnson and Miss Lorraine Piper are both progressing favorably at home following operations in hospital in Georgetown.

We regret that Mr. Garnet Thompson was again taken to hospital by ambulance last week, where he had a foot amputated on Monday. We hope that he can make a good recovery.

Mrs. Hale and little daughter are expected home this week after a three week trip by plane to visit relatives in Plymouth, England.

Wedding Saturday

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Post, who were married in the Christian Reformed Church, Georgetown, on Saturday. They are making their home in Limehouse.

Major and Mrs. Robin Bourne and family of Ottawa spent Easter with his parents here.

The Russell Ross's of Toronto visited Mrs. Osburn and Mr. Harvey McDowell and the Lawsons on Sunday.

Euchre Winners

The Limehouse Memorial Hall Board held a euchre on Monday evening last week. Prizes were won by Mrs. E. Miller and Ernest Miller. Seconds went to Mrs. R. L. Davidson in a cut with Mrs. Clare Wilson, and to Ralph Turner in a cut with Harvey McDowell. Travelling prizes went to Mrs. E. Miller and Mrs. A. C. Patterson. Eight tables were in play and lunch was served after, to end an enjoyable evening.

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