

New chairman

Raftis tackles jobs for region's future



Signing in

JUDGE WILLIAM SHARPE looks over the shoulder of Halton's new regional chairman Jack Raftis as he signs the oath of allegiance during inaugural ceremonies, Wednesday, Dec. 13. His Honor performed the swearing-in of the chairman and the new council.

Jack Raftis was sworn in as Halton's new regional chairman Wednesday, Dec. 13. The 49-year-old engineer from Burlington becomes the third person to hold the position.

He follows predecessors Ric Morrow and Al Masson. Performing the swearing-in ceremonies of Raftis and 24 regional councillors was Judge William Sharpe.

Except to joke he was over 18 years of age, Raftis' taking the oath of office proceeded smoothly. His remark drew chuckles from the audience. "People want jobs, not welfare; respect not control," he said in his inaugural address.

"Our work will be measured and characterized by accomplishment."

"We must actively pursue commercial and industrial assessment to not only provide tax dollars, but jobs for our citizens."

He said he was going to meet with the region's

development officer Bill Williams and the four mayors to discuss ways of attracting industry and business.

"To continue our present level of service it will be necessary to attract new or expand existing industry. Our goal is similar to those across Canada, job creation and economic activity."

Raftis said he had received commitments from regional department heads to freeze staff hiring and review each position when an opening occurs.

"Make people grow, not government," he said.

"We need improved productivity."

Progress was projected on resource recovery.

"Consultants' reports on sites and markets will be available in January 1979, with agreements with the Ministry of Environment, including their financing of capital equipment, we must construct at least a transfer

station complete with a front-end plant to include initially the separation of paper, ferrous materials and glass to minimize the need for landfill sites."

Raftis said capital expenditures on water purification plants and equipment would be done.

Uniform water rates are going to increase homeowners' bills.

Raftis said the impact must be minimized.

This could be done by phasing expenditures over a longer period.

Conferring regional roads to each of the four municipalities is a possibility in 1979.

Raftis said "Maintenance and construction costs can be minimized and duplication and unnecessary expense avoided."

"In any avenue of co-ordination between the region and the area municipalities, it is

my belief that the region should take full responsibility to co-operate in favor of the local governments and working with the mayors of our municipalities, I will do everything possible to co-operate to serve the best interests of all citizens," he said.

Improvements in transportation and police protection within the region were touched by Raftis.

"Much more emphasis must be placed on community services, the so-called soft services," he said.

"It will be the responsibility of the Health and Social Services Committee to examine needs and use of federal and provincial grants to obtain maximum value."

Raftis said, "We must remember a society cannot consume more than it can produce and it cannot produce as much as it would like to consume."

No specific proposal — wants industrial zone

A plea to rezone some land west of Acton for industrial development without a specific development proposal fell on deaf ears at Halton Hills planning board last Tuesday.

The 70 acres between Highway 25 and the CNR tracks is presently zoned agricultural.

Ralph Clausi, of A. E. LePage, speaking on behalf of V. Genova, said the industrial land would be used for clean industry with no open storage.

He said his client is connected with a recognized industrial developer in Toronto and they feel confident they can attract firms to the site.

Councillor Roy Booth complained planning board couldn't rezone the property without having details of the proposed development.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said he wished the proposal had come a year earlier

before the town rezoned some nearby industrial land to residential.

He said he couldn't see how this much land could possibly be developed industrially and thought to rezone it would be poor planning.

Commission to attend convention

Members of the Acton Hydro Electric Commission will attend the annual Ontario Municipal Electrical Association convention at the Westbury Hotel, Toronto January 10.

Representatives of the local commission have always, in the past attended the convention to meet with other commissions across Ontario to discuss problems, solutions, new equipment, etc.

Councillor Harry Levy noted there was nothing before planning board to consider so the rezoning shouldn't be accepted.

Planning board decided to table the issue so the planner can consult with the developer regarding a proper proposal.

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Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kinal and Staff

Seek study of Lake camp

Halton Hills legally can't stop the expansion of a campgrounds on the shores of Fairy Lake in Acton but wants the province to conduct an environmental assessment study.

Last Tuesday Councillor Roy Booth told Halton Hills planning board all the town can do is tell the Ministry of Industry and Tourism the expansion conforms to zoning.

At the same time he wanted the town to make sure Queen's Park is aware of Halton Hills' concerns about the impact of the expansion on the environment and fire department worries about protecting the camp.

Smallwood Acres Campground has requested permission to expand its campground by adding 25 unserviced sites. The campground currently has 175 sites.

By asking for an environmental assessment the province will need to hold a hearing giving the public an opportunity to give their views.

Peking halts school trip

The People's Republic of China scrapped efforts of a Burlington high school teacher for a class trip to the Orient.

The main reason for the trip being cancelled, wrote teacher Dave Trueman to the Halton Board of Education, is "a remarkable about-face in policy on the part of the People's Republic of China which has ultimately restricted the entrance visa solely to students of public high school of Halton County."

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