

Rising for the swearing-in ceremony at last Wednesday's regional council inauguration for 1981 to 1982. 24 councillors from Halton's four area municipalities took an oath of office for the next two years. The inauguration packed the chambers at regional headquarters in Oakville as councillor's

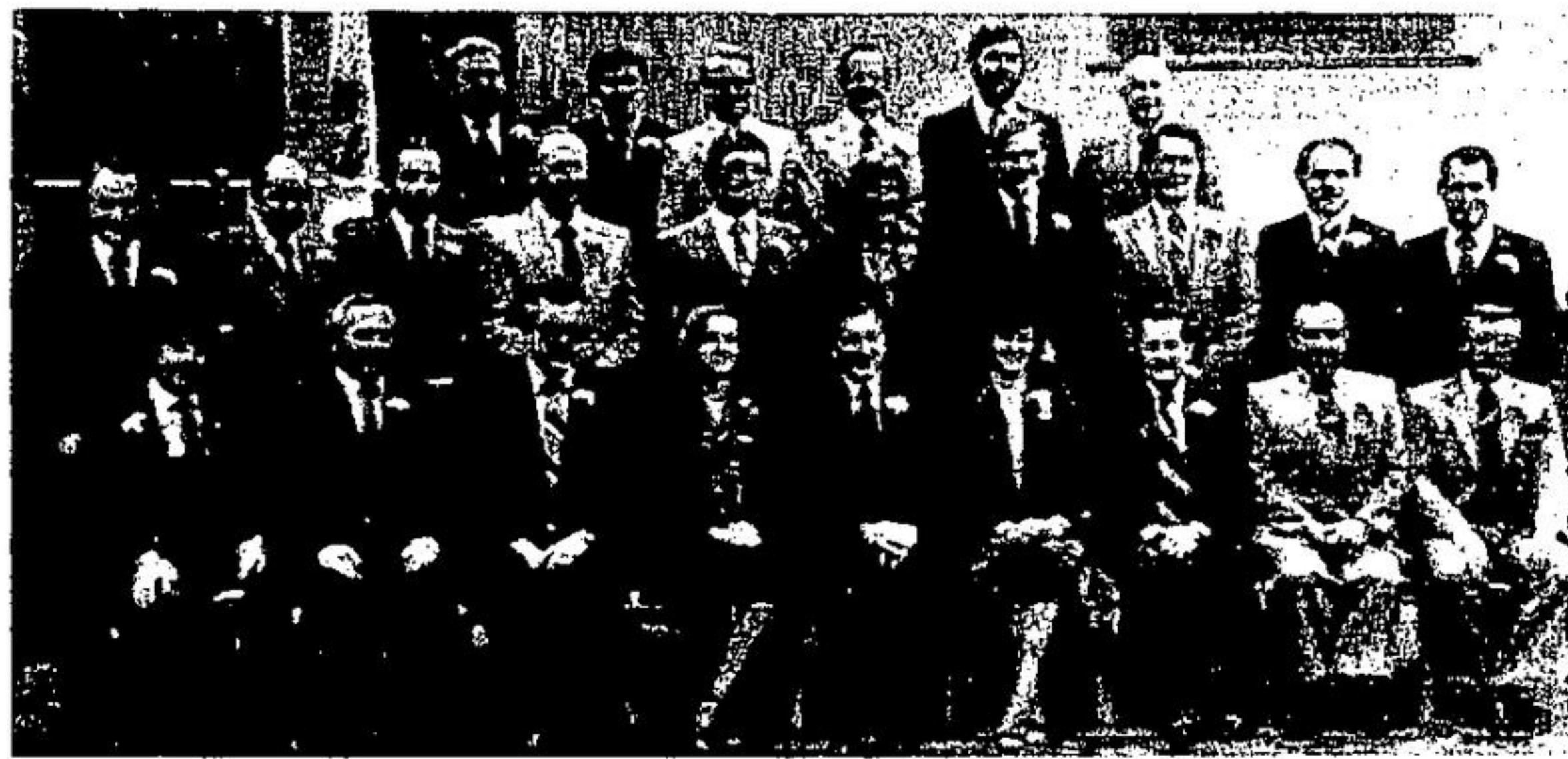
families, members of various town staffs, former regional chairman Allan Masson, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed and Dorothy Stone, who designed Halton's heraldic shield, joined councillors to honor the region's fourth inauguration.

## Region studies Site A

Regional council has decided to take a closer look at Site "A", a clay quarry owned by National Sewer Pipe Ltd. of Canada, which could become Halton's next big garbage dump.

Council accepted a privately-conducted hydrologist's report indicating that groundwater in the area would not be affected by the Site "A" proposal and directed staff to get opinions from the city of Burlington and the ministry of the environment about using the land for Halton's dump after 1983.

Milton's Site "F" proposed landfill site, strongly favored by regional staff but opposed by the town and a number of citizens' groups because of its prime agricultural soil, still awaits a ministerial decision on public hearings.



The 1981-82 regional council posed for an official portrait following their inauguration last Wednesday. Seated in the front row (left to right) are Burlington Mayor Holy Bird, Milton Coun. Brad Clements, Burlington's James Grieve, Oakville's Ann Mulvale, regional chairman Jack Raftis, Burlington Coun. Joan Allingham, Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, Milton Coun. Bill Johnson, and Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy. In the middle row are Burlington Coun. Stephen Toth, Halton Hills' Russ

Miller, Oakville's Terry Manell, Burlington's Vern Connell, Burlington's David Lacombe, Oakville's Carol Gooding, Burlington's Walter Mulkewich, Halton Hills' Roy Booth, Oakville's Keith Bird and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz. Standing in the back row are Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver, Halton Hills' Mike Armstrong, Burlington's Ted Macdonald, Oakville's Gord Reade and Halton Hills' Dave Whiting.

(Herald photo)

## Region's priorities changing to social services: Raftis

Health and social services provided by Halton regional council will begin to take precedence over other areas of service that have "pre-occupied" council in the past, according to regional chairman Jack Raftis.

Mr. Raftis forecast the shift in servicing emphasis during his address at regional council's well-attended inaugural last Wednesday afternoon.

"Although we still need sewers, watermains, roads, and they will be adequately provided they will not preoccupy us as they have done in the past," Mr. Raftis said following his formal, unanimous election by council to a second term.

"Health and social services, including care of the aged, will require more attention in the future," he added. "These are people-oriented services."

Seven new councillors—Oakville's Ann Mulvale, Keith Bird, Fred Oliver, and Gord Reade, Milton's new Mayor Gord Krantz, Coun. Brad Clements and Acton regional rep Dave Whiting—were sworn into office by Judge William Sharpe as about 100 people, mostly members of councillors' families, looked on.

While acknowledging the individual characteristics to be preserved among Halton's four area municipalities, Mr. Raftis prescribed teamwork among regional councillors to balance the varied interests on a region-wide basis.

The chairman reviewed council's accomplishments since 1974, among them the implementation and maintenance of uniform water and sewer rates, the adoption of a regional plan and an increase in health care for the mentally handicapped and those in need of family counselling.

The provincial government will require the region to expand its health care program, Mr. Raftis explained, to include dental health, immunization, home care for senior citizens, nutritional counselling and care of handicapped infants. And the

region will have to put special emphasis on meeting the needs of the aged, he added.

"Our society is rapidly aging," Mr. Raftis said. "The increase in the number of senior citizens in our region will translate itself into more services for their care."

Regional estimates indicate that Halton's elderly population will increase from its current 18,000 to 25,300 by 1986 and 56,000 by 2001.

Although Mr. Raftis lauded the region's efforts in a joint pilot project with the province to recycle material from household trash, waste disposal is an ever-intensifying headache for Halton. Mr. Raftis' speech carried a clear warning for the

citizen's lobby battling the region's "Site F" proposal to construct a 246-acre garbage dump on prime agricultural land in Milton.

"Compared to disposal, collection (of refuse) is easy," he said. "We, as a region, have to overcome citizen reaction, strong environmental lobbies, complex legislation and competing interests. We have the complex and difficult task of disposing of over 200,000 tons of garbage a year."

In spite of his own expectations that the provincial government will continue to delegate more authority to regional governments, Mr. Raftis sniped at decreasing provincial funding, which

forces the region to increasingly draw on property taxes to pay for municipal projects.

"The property tax basis upon which we must rely is certainly too weak to do the job effectively," he said, "and, as we have recently seen, the grants system at the senior levels of government is not dependable."

Less than anticipated grants contributed to the region's \$600,000 shortfall, discovered earlier this year in the 1980 operating budget.

Calling for solidarity on regional council, Mr. Raftis warned that the social and economic problems facing the 1980s are "too formidable for individual municipalities to solve alone."

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## Correction

An article in last week's Herald incorrectly stated that a Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation course was sponsored by the Red Cross. It was sponsored by the Halton Hills parks and recreation department. The Herald regrets the error.

## Hostel needs funds

Halton Women's Place, the Milton-based hostel for abused women and their children which opened Oct. 20, is appealing to the public for donations and other assistance. The hostel is a registered charitable organization with a \$13,000 operating budget for 1981, 75 per cent of which will be provided by Halton region; the remainder must come through public and private donations. The 48 Hugh St. headquarters in Milton was purchased and renovated through a \$120,000 mortgage insured by CMHC. For more information, phone the hostel at 878-7757; the centre's crisis line is 878-8555.

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