## Morrow: we must get back to reflecting views of the people

Region photos, stories by Bob Burtt

there will be "a little less politics and a little more business" around Halton regional headquarters during the next

two years. Mr. Morrow said time and time again during a press conference Wednesday that he would keep a low public

public functions other than those specifically regional in that the regional chairman's attendance at functions in the

municipality detracted from the dignity and authority of the mayor. "There seems to regional chairman's office than is necessary or proper."

he said. Morrow's attitude public functions seems to be typical of the posture he plans to take as regional chairman and the role he sees the regional level He said he would not attend of government playing in

According to Mr. Morrow, nature. Mr. Morrow claimed the regional chairman's job is not the job of a "super mayor". He scoffed at the

idea of the regional council being a step up and a step more powerful than area councils, but preferred to think of the region as being on a par or equal with the four area councils.

Mr. Morrow told reporters that he is a supporter of regional government but his answers on most questions indicated that the region wouldn't be swelling in size or authority under his chair-

"I want to redefine the role of the chairman's office and reduce it in authority and status. I want to slow down the expansion of the office itself and the region.'

For his part, Mr. Morrow will be a part time chairman, keeping his job as a pilot with a commercial airline.

His predecessor Allan Masson was active with the Association of Counties and attended regularly at meetings of the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee among other provincial bodies. According to Morrow, that

won't be part of his job. That, like the public functions, will go by the board and if council wants a chairman at those types of things, they'll have to look for a new man. Mr. Morrow told reporters

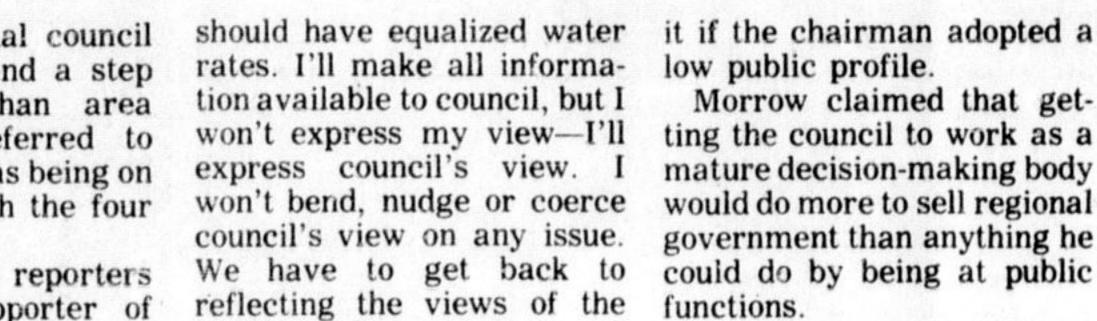
he sees his priority in terms of time commitment as being with council and regional staff. Morrow says he can spend an average of three days a week in the office. He's not interested in

having a car provided for him, but because he lives at the opposite end of the region from the office and spends a lot of time driving, he thinks a phone in his car could be a real benefit.

The new chairman said his first priority would be to bring decorum to the meetothers have termed "the three ring circus".

Mr. Morrow made it clear he wouldn't be voicing his own opinion, but rather the opinion of council on issues as

'It is not for me to say we



people," he stressed. Mr. Morrow noted that as a chairman elected by council instead of the people, he doesn't have a mandate and feels he should vote only to

One reporter suggested that regional government was still in need of a selling plained why he changed his job especially in the north, mind on that count and he and wondered who would sell

upon that during his press conference. low public profile.

by Morrow's election as a

only a week earlier he had

Neither his letter to coun-

cillors nor his speech ex-

was reluctant to expound

He did say, however, the Morrow claimed that getobvious change in council's ting the council to work as a attitude and the confusion at mature decision-making body an informal meeting trigwould do more to sell regional gered his nomination. government than anything he During a telephone intercould do by being at public

view prior to the election, he had said the idea of a part Reporters were disturbed time chairman had never been considered as a possibipart time chairman, when lity, prior to council's meeting to discuss the election of a spoken strongly in favor of the need for a full time chair-

The last question of the press conference was, "How do you feel right now?"

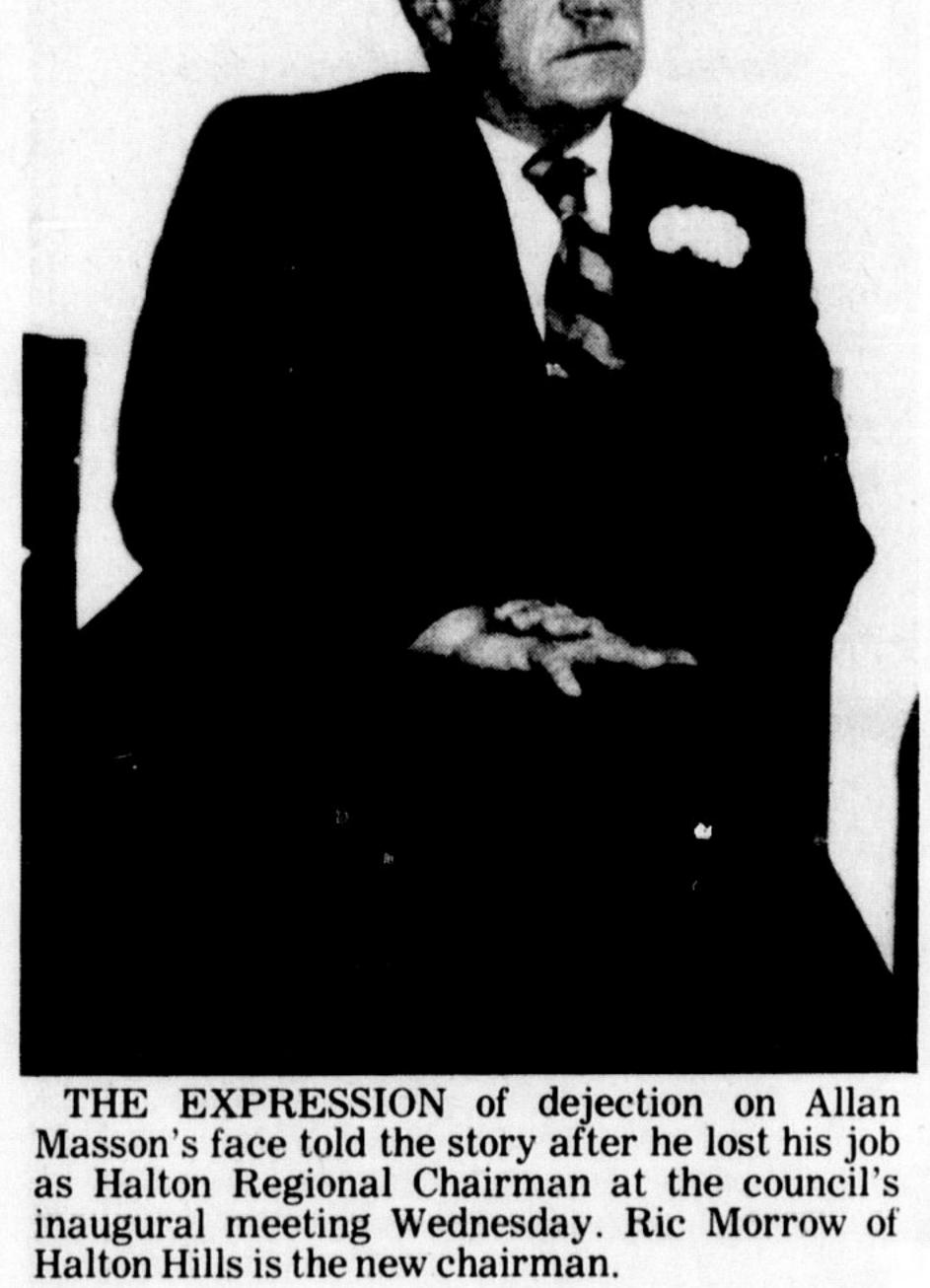
"Like someone just hit me over the head," he replied. (Continued on page C10)



COUNCILLORS TOOK their oath of office during the regional inaugural meeting Wednesday. Councillors shown in this picture are Jim Kerr, Milton; Walter Mulkewich, Burlington; Laurie Mannell, Oakville; Jack Raftis, Burlington; Ron Planche, Oakville; Don Carter, Burlington; Tom Sutherland, Burlington; Roy Booth, Halton Hills and Jim Watson, Milton.



THE EXPRESSION of dejection on Allan Masson's face told the story after he lost his job Halton Hills is the new chairman.



IS FREE!

NEWLY ELECTED Regional Chairman Ric Morrow took the seat after being elected Wednesday. Clerk Garfield Brown is shown in the background.

## Council - staff seminar today

regional chairman.

reporters near the end of a reasonable to expect a difreception at the inaugural meeting and then dined with Halton's Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid that evening.

The CAC said he felt the meeting then had helped them come to grips and help understand each other. "I think we'll enjoy working together. Ric is young. He has a lot of ideas. I look forward to the opportunity to bounce ideas off one another," he

Mr. Reid wouldn't comment on what seemed to be a

Newly elected chairman desire by the new chairman Ric Morrow wasted little time to keep the power of the in getting on with the job as region under close scrutiny. New approach

But he did say that it is ferent approach by a person appointed by the province and given a bill, as opposed to one elected by council. He said the fact Morrow was elected would give him a greater political sensitivity, but he still has the bill to

As Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Reid is the staff member who works most closely with the chairman. A meeting of council has been scheduled today (Wednesday) to pass five by-laws. The by-laws deal with capital

expenditure and have to be processed prior to the end of the month. Money being spent is allocated under the 1977

Seminar

Following the meeting a council-staff seminar will be held at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton.

Mr. Reid said the seminar is entitled "Halton Region, Past and Present" and is designed to help new members become oriented and help new and old members get to know one another.

Mr. Morrow indicated that he would be holding a special meeting of council to determine the goals council wants to achieve over the next two years.

