

New chairman

Raftis tackles jobs for region's future



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."

Seniors view lights on Simcoe bus tour

Milton Lions Club sponsored a trip to the town of Simcoe for 48 members of Milton Senior Citizens Club 88 Monday, Dec. 11.

The seniors toured the town to view the lights which is an annual tradition in Simcoe.

Before the tour, the group ate supper at the Royal Simcoe Hotel with Sam Fucille who arranged the trip.

Accompanying the seniors on their tour was Brosk Smith of the Simcoe Chamber of Commerce who acted as tour guide. Driver was Claude Hoffman of Burlington.

The club's meeting on Dec. 13 was opened by Sam Finnie with Mae Crawford at the piano for O Canada and Grace.

Following a pot luck luncheon, a good turnout heard Clara Price introduce the guest speaker Grace May who showed how to make Christmas decorations. She was thanked by Mrs. Florence.

The group welcomed two new members Mr. and Mrs. Carlsburg who have moved to Milton from London, Ont.

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