



New chairman grasps helm with confidence

By Rod Lamb
Intuition based on experience is the quality Halton Regional Chairman Jack Raftis uses to find which way the political wind is blowing. Raftis, who has been called a fox by Mayor Don Gordon for his uncanny ability to push the things which can be approved and to drop those which generate opposition, said he always listens when councillors are debating. "Is he speaking with conviction or is he speaking for political purposes?" Raftis said a person who speaks with conviction will speak with emotion, will be well organized in the presentation of the facts, will probably have spoken to him and the staff beforehand and will be committed to what he is saying. A person who doesn't exhibit these characteristics is usually speaking for political purposes and can be defeated. Raftis said his training as an engineer has enabled him

to cut through the rhetoric to the facts. "That's what an engineer is trained to do," he said, "to operate on the facts. Raftis has an ability to shift the wheat from the chaff. At the first meeting of the Halton Health and Social Services Committee Tuesday, Dec. 19, he cut through the jargon and reams of information presented by a group of consultants, to the true costs of what they were saying. The ability was earned through 25 years in the arena of municipal politics. Starting with Canadian General Electric after he graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in business and engineering in 1953, Raftis has been with the company ever since, rising to be manager of the northern Ontario division and then the western division, and his philosophy of leadership is based on allowing people to follow their own

heads in that they achieve on their own merits. If they don't, or are unwilling, Mr. Raftis said the only solution is "to scare the hell out of them." Perhaps no other person in Halton is as well qualified to be its chairman. As he himself said, "I have served my apprenticeship." Raftis was chairman of the committee on regional government when it was proposed for Sudbury. Deputy-mayor of the city at that time (1972), he investigated other municipalities which had been incorporated as regional municipalities. When he moved to Burlington and was elected to office, he ran as regional councillor because of his experience. His engineering abilities were recognized when he was appointed chairman of the public works committee, a position he held for five years. During that time (1974-78) the region built and let contracts for several major

water and sewage projects. Now that he has the reigns of power in his hands, Raftis said he is going to make the development of industrial and commercial assessment his main priority. "People want jobs," he said. "Where are they going to find them if someone doesn't go out and bring them here?" The chairman said he will spend most of next year with Bill Marshall, Halton's development officer. Created by former chairman Ric Morrow, the department is the key to the future in the eyes of Raftis. A strong regional person, Raftis said it is important for people and the communities they live in, to retain their identity. "Everything should be filtered through the local representatives," he said. Thus, it is important to have the four mayors on the administration committee because it is through them regional government will be administered. Raftis is an English name. Coming from a farming family which homesteaded at Arthur, north of Guelph, Halton's new chairman is tough. He said the hardest thing is to shoulder the blame in order to allow another councillor to walk away with pride. Although it is difficult, the responsibility doesn't bother Raftis. "When I walk out of the meeting," he said, "I forget it." "I don't have any problem sleeping."

Region declines water cost

Milton's bid for \$9,160.07 to cover extra cost on the reconstruction of Thomas St. was turned down by the Halton Public Works Committee Wednesday, Dec. 20. The vote was made on the recommendation of regional treasurer Don Farmer. Although Milton Councillor Bill Johnson pressed to have the region pay the bill, he was unsuccessful. Mr. Farmer said in a report, "On July 6, 1977, regional council passed a resolution which approved the payment of \$24,535 to the Town of Milton. This was in response to a request from the Town of Milton that the region pay this specific sum, being 50 per cent of the cost of lowering a watermain on Thomas St." "The remaining 50 per cent would be recovered by the Town of Milton from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications," he said. "Since the water-

main was installed, the Town of Milton has indicated to us that the cost of the watermain has increased substantially and they are asking us for an additional sum of money." Mr. Farmer said he recommended vetoing the request because the request is not in accordance with regional practices. Although he acknowledged the regional policy had been different, Mr. Farmer recommended the town pick up the tab. Operation of the staff residence at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton as a home for troubled youth will be the subject of discussion between the Halton Health and Social Services Committee and the Sheridan Youth Association. The committee decided to enter the negotiations with the association at its first meeting of the 1979-80 term Tuesday, Dec. 19. The association had made a previous offer but the committee decided to withhold a decision until after the Nov. 13 election. The committee's decision was made on the recommendation of Jack Charlton, manor administrator. Mr. Charlton had no objections to using the former staff residence as a home for troubled youths. He said he did not envisage any problems mixing the young and the old.

Nor did he have any opposition to the proposed renovations the association will be undertaking. Although Mr. Charlton acknowledged Halton Recovery House and Halton Women's Place had made presentations to use the staff residence, he recommended the association use the building because it had a formal plan and provincial financing. **NEC meets**
The next meetings of the Niagara Escarpment Commission will be held on Thursday, Jan. 4 at 10 a.m., and Friday, Jan. 5 at 9:30 a.m., in the conference room of the NEC's main office, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown. Limited seating is available for any members of the public who may wish to attend and observe the sessions.

HALTON CHAIRMAN JACK RAFTIS stands only five-foot-eight but his new position puts him head and shoulders above the rest of regional council when it comes to leadership. Development of industry and commercial assessment within the region will be his main objectives.

"A fascinating study"

Anderson heads committee composed of four mayors

By Rod Lamb
Chairing a committee with four mayors on it is "a fascinating study." Making the remark was Oakville Regional Councillor McLean Anderson, chairman of the Halton Finance and Administration Committee. "When I look at you," he said of the mayors, "I am actually looking at 20 to 25 people." The mayors are Peter Pomeroy of Halton Hills, Milton Mayor Don Gordon, Harry Barrett of Oakville and Burlington Mayor Roly Bird. Mr. Anderson was referring to the fact mayors are sometimes accompanied by aides, staff and interested parties. When three of the latter from Mayor Pomeroy's camp showed up, Mr. Anderson referred to them as "henchmen."

The committee is viewed with promise by Halton Chairman Jack Raftis. With four mayors on it, he said he expected to committee to take a leading role in the 1979-80 term. Mr. Anderson is again chairman. As former mayor of Oakville, he said he appreciates the timetables mayors have to keep. "If you can't make it to a meeting, be sure and give us a call." Having been a mayor, he is content to allow extensive dialogue between staff and committee members. "I like dialogue between staff and councillors," he said. "I think it is good." Yet, he can always rope in the debate if it gets out of hand. In a polite voice and with a trace of humor, he told Mayor

Barrett to "stuff it" and allow newcomer Bonnie Brown of Oakville to speak. Sitting with his ever-constant pipe behind empty coffee cups, Mr. Anderson listens to everything which is said. He has a sense of humor. When regional solicitor Dennis Perlin, who is five-foot-five attended, Mr. Anderson said, "Hello, little Dennis." After Mayor Gordon told the committee Mr. Perlin had attended Milton Council, Mr. Anderson quipped, "He gets around." A purser with Air Canada and the most senior employee on the airline's staff, Mr. Anderson has been to every country where Air Canada flies, and more. He said the job allows him to look at things objectively. "When I was flying to the west coast with a two-hour turn around time in Vancouver, I would take the Oakville agenda and two cups of coffee and within an hour, I would have everything memorized." "If I had been at home, it would have taken me five to six hours." Mr. Anderson was Mayor of Oakville seven years, from 1966 to 1972. He has been involved in municipal politics 16 years, 1962-78. Being able to get away from the job allows one to look at it objectively, he said. "It allows you to stand back from the forest and see the trees." Travelling allows a person to come into contact with different people and new ideas. Mr. Anderson said he met the manager of Dallas, a city where the mayor and council-

ors are paid only \$50 a month. Speaking of Mayor Barrett, he said, "Harry doesn't take a vacation." "He's afraid the office won't be there when he comes back." At 53 years of age, Mr. Anderson said he has no complaints with life. "I enjoy meeting people," he said. "I guess you can say I am in the people business."

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Realign area road

Halton Public Works Committee agreed to purchase a section of land from a Campbellville woman to realign a road at its meeting Dec. 20. The committee agreed to pay Catharine Martin \$3,500 for a section of property to realign a portion of the Campbellville Road, Re-

gional Road 9, formerly in Nassagaweya Township and now in Milton. Council approved purchase of the property July 20, 1977. The decision to buy was on the recommendation of regional solicitor Dennis Perlin. The purchase closes the deviated road traversing the Martin property.

Youths to enter senior residence

Operation of the staff residence at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton as a home for troubled youth will be the subject of discussion between the Halton Health and Social Services Committee and the Sheridan Youth Association. The committee decided to enter the negotiations with the association at its first meeting of the 1979-80 term Tuesday, Dec. 19. The association had made a previous offer but the committee decided to withhold a decision until after the Nov. 13 election. The committee's decision was made on the recommendation of Jack Charlton, manor administrator. Mr. Charlton had no objections to using the former staff residence as a home for troubled youths. He said he did not envisage any problems mixing the young and the old.

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