

Inaugural meeting highlights

by Doug Reed
It took less than one hour to swear in Midland's newly-elected council and the town's Public Utilities Commission, Monday night at town hall before about 50 spectators.

Clerk praised
Clerk Mike Owen was praised by Mayor Moreland Lynn for Owen's handling of the inaugural meeting, the first time the clerk has had to do the job.

Assisting him was town solicitor Douglas Haig who administered the oaths of office and oaths of allegiance.

Clergy represented
Father John Sullivan and Rev. Francis Cook were called upon for a devotional period and prayer of dedication at Monday's inaugural meeting.

With regret
It was noted with regret, Simcoe East MPP Gord Smith was unable to attend the occasion due to other business and that Midland trustee on Simcoe County Board of Education John McCullough was attending his own inaugural meeting at the education centre in Barrie.

Exchange students honored
A group of exchange students from both this country and Malaysia who were in the audience were honored during the night.

The Malaysian students later presented the town with a token of their esteem

Gavel with a story
The gavel, or mallet, which Mayor Lynn used Monday night to close the meeting has been in use at town hall since 1965.

According to Lynn it was used sparingly during the past two years as he predicted it

would see little use during the next two-year term to gavel members to order.

24 years ago
Alderman Bill Orr (Senator Orr as he is often called affectionately) noted Solicitor Haig and he had served on council together back in 1956 "which makes us the same again."

Orr's good-natured remarks brought a roar from those present. The alderman was commenting on earlier remarks the new council had a good blend of the young and the old. At the outset Orr said,

"It is nice to be back," referring to the past two years that he has been out of public office.

MP present
Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis offered a few kind remarks concluding with his offer to work closely with council.

Lewis added, "I'm here to serve you." The MP also noted that on Friday last in the House of Commons he had pressed the Minister of Manpower and Immigration to come up with a grant so as to assist Midland in developing its harbour.

Families saluted
The families of newly-elected civic leaders stood for applause as they were cited for allowing their spouses to spend a great deal of time away from home on town business.

Bible was in blaze
Mayor Lynn called attention to the fact that the Bible he took his oaths on was in the town hall fire 21 months ago on March 8.

Although water-marked the Bible was still in good shape. He said the Bible had been presented to last year's council two years ago at its inaugural meeting.

Two more members
Council has grown from seven to nine members and as a result of increasing numbers council tables have been arranged so that aldermen sit on both sides, the reeve, clerk and deputy-reeve at the front and the mayor in his traditional spot in the chief magistrate's chair on the platform in the council chambers.

Reception follows
A small reception followed the formal part of this week's inaugural meeting so that civic leaders, family, friends and ratepayers could meet informally.

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