

# Pomp and ceremony mark Tay inaugural

by Ken Regan  
There was plenty of pomp and ceremony last Thursday afternoon when members of Tay Township council were sworn into office at their inaugural council meeting.

The occasion in the township offices lasted more than an hour with the two newest council members, Kay Chambers and Bill Gibson, along with veteran Tom O'Hara, being led in by clerk Brian Hopkins and then being sworn in by township solicitor Gordon Teskey.

All three then recited their allegiance to the Queen and were led by the clerk to their respective positions at the council table.

The same procedure followed with Deputy-reeve David Walker and Reeve Charles Rawson, who upon taking his position at the head of council, presented the official welcome to all gathered.

In his inaugural address, Rawson, in his casual, down to earth manner pointed out several areas to which he planned to give emphasis during his two-year term, including assistance to the residents of the Forest Harbour area.

Referring to the poor living conditions of those residents, Rawson said "I'm going to try and do something about it."

In reference to the advances made in Tay over the past eight years, Rawson said the township has literally

progressed "from the lead pencil to the computer." (Tay was the first area municipality to institute the use of a micro-computer for handling municipal data.)

Special guests at the inaugural meeting included Rev. Charles Carter, and Warden for Simcoe County, Allan McLean.

Rev. Carter told council, "You are entrusted with something both sacred and important to the community," and continued saying, "you are committed to the possible. You must do the best you can, the very best you can for the people of Tay."

Teskey followed with individual congratulations for each councillor, and specific mention for the contributions of Reeve Rawson.

Warden McLean congratulated council and offered some advice: "you must be concerned with people's concerns because they are very important to them."

Each councillor also had a turn at offering comments, and of note was Deputy-reeve Walker's comments concerning Tay's relationship with Penetanguishene and the area planning board.

Walker said he hoped the Ministry of Housing would move expeditiously to confirm Tay's withdrawal from the board but added that inter-municipal cooperation and con-

sultation had been an important element in the past and he was hopeful it would continue.

He also had some criticism for those who he said took part in some "political lobbying" on the area planning board issue, during the municipal election.

Following the introduction of, and greetings from, area dignitaries, including Penetanguishene Mayor-elect Ron Bellisle, Maurice Darby, Reeve of Tivy and outgoing council members Bruce Tinney and David Moore, Rawson offered a closing remark to Penetanguishene and Tivy, the two neighbouring municipalities, Rawson said, "the cooperation of Tay Township is here. If we don't take it to you, come and get it."

With that, the pomp and ceremony ended with a welcome break for coffee and donuts.

During the meeting Reeve Rawson announced appointments to several municipal departments.

In charge of the roads department will be Councillor Tom O'Hara; newcomer Kay Chambers will be in charge of the property and public safety area and Reeve Rawson himself will look after fire department affairs.

Bill Gibson will hold responsibility for the township's water department and he will also be responsible for hospital board matters.

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