

Kaktovik elects officers

By CYNTHIA WENTWORTH

Arctic coastal planners and others will be interested to know that Kaktovik has a new Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and City Clerk. Walt Audi was recently elected the new Mayor of the City of Kaktovik. He succeeds Marx Sims, who ably served as Kaktovik's Mayor for two years. Walt is an excellent and well-known pilot and has extensive knowledge of and familiarity with coastal weather and ice patterns.

As Walt is occasionally delayed by flying responsibilities, newly-elected Vice Mayor Georgianna Tikluk then presides over council meetings. Georgianna also teaches full-time at the Kaktovik school, and works on Kaktovik's recreation committee. She was born at Gordon near Demarcation Point, and spent her early years travelling along the Beaufort Sea coast with her father, who worked for the Coast and Geodetic Survey. She has a lifetime of hunting and fishing experience in the Barter Island area.

Georgianna's husband Philip Tikluk is serving his second year on the City Council, as are

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Jimmy Soplu, Danny Gordon, and Isaac Akootchook. All of these council members were born and raised at or near Barter Island and have lifelong familiarity with the coastal area's wildlife and weather.

Alfred Linn Jr. is also serving his second year on the council, as well as working as a legal assistant to Alaska Legal Services lawyer Mike Jeffries of Barrow. Alfred was born in Barrow and spent several of his early years at Herschel Island, Canada, as well as at Barter Island.

New Kaktovik City Clerk is Edna Soplu. Edna, the wife of Jimmy Soplu, is the daughter of the late Guy Okakok, a leader in the Native Land Claims and well-known writer for the Tundra Times.