

# A look back to 1861 when the Lindsay Court House was built

On Thursday of last week the County Council heard in detail the plans for contemplated renovations to the Court House and the erecting of a large addition, the cost estimated at \$450,000, at the same session the architect's plans for an addition to the County Home were also presented, the outlay to be in the neighbourhood of \$450,000 also.

It is interesting to note that the fine old and stately Court House dates back to the year 1861, the epoch making year of the great conflagration which whiped out a large section of Lindsay, razing to the ground a large number of frame stores and homes, along a widespread area extending east on Ridout Street, the north side of Kent Street business section and on with the wind as far north as the present Court House. From the embers and ashes grew a greater town than ever dreamed of by the most ardent and patriotic citizens.

The Court House today stands as a monument to the foresight and ingenuity of our forefathers. Expert architects stated this week that the present Court House is structurally sound but is inadequate for the present era.

Back in the historic year of 1861 the Council comprised Bexley and Laxton, Carden, Emily, Fenelon, Lindsay, Lutterworth, Anson, Mariposa, Ops and Verulam. In 1862 Digby became part of Bexley and Laxton. In 1863 Hindon became part of Lutterworth and Anson, and Sommerville became a municipality. Dalton, Ryde and MacAulay became one municipality and in 1864 Bexley separated from Laxton and Digby. In 1860 Dalton joined Carden and in 1868 Longford became part of Laxton and Digby. Lutterworth, Anson and Hindon separated from the County of Victoria in the year 1875.

County Council members in 1861 were Robert Staples, Bexley and Laxton; S. Thompson, Carden; Duncan McRay, Eldon William Cottingham, Emily; Thomas Stephenson, Emily; William Dick, Fenelon; Alex MacAulay, Lindsay; Thomas Provert, Lutterworth and Anson; Jonathan Hodgson, Mariposa; John Clarke, Mariposa; Partick McHugh, Ops; John Conolly, Ops; and Jabez Thurston, Verulam.

The first Warden was William Cottingham of Emily and Omemee in 1861.