

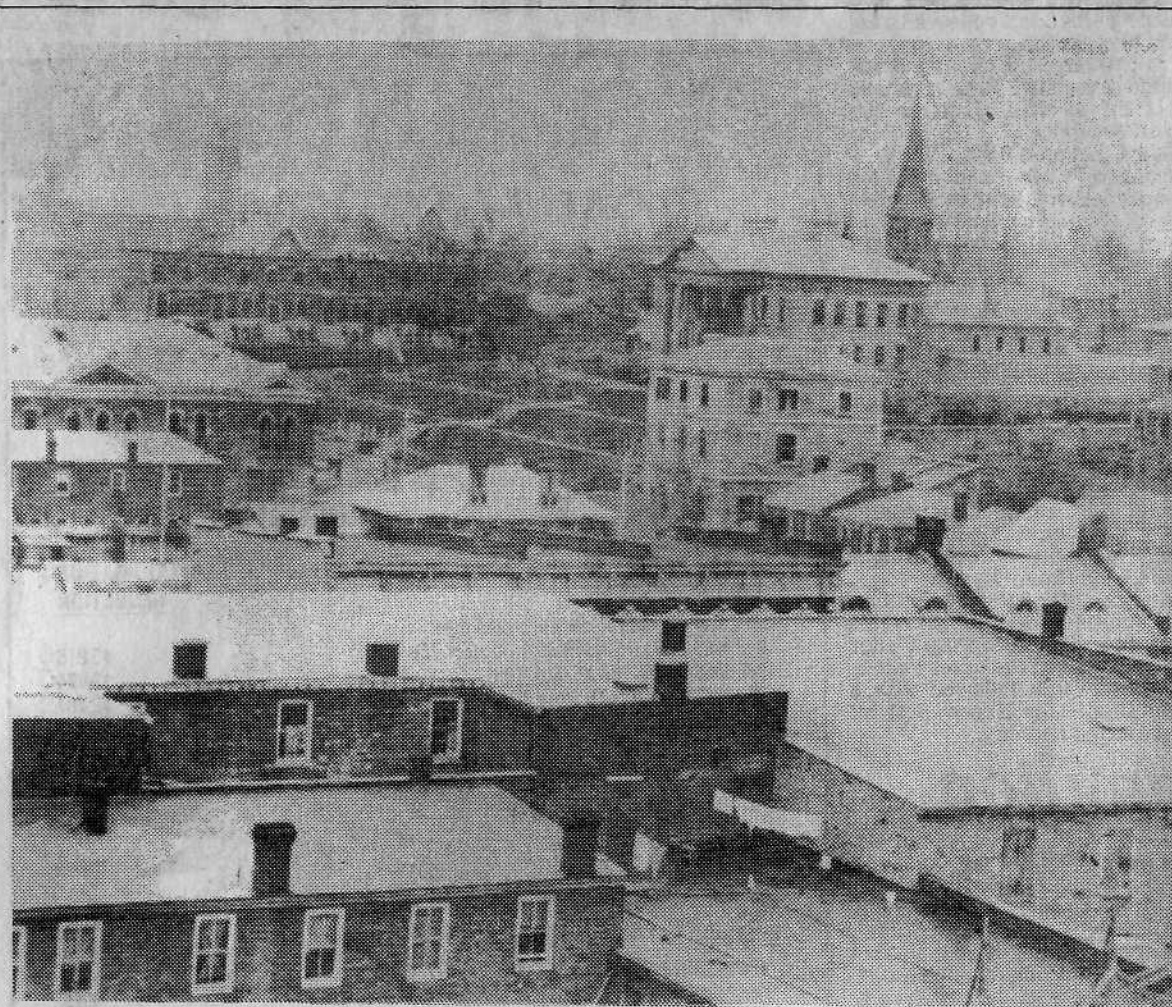
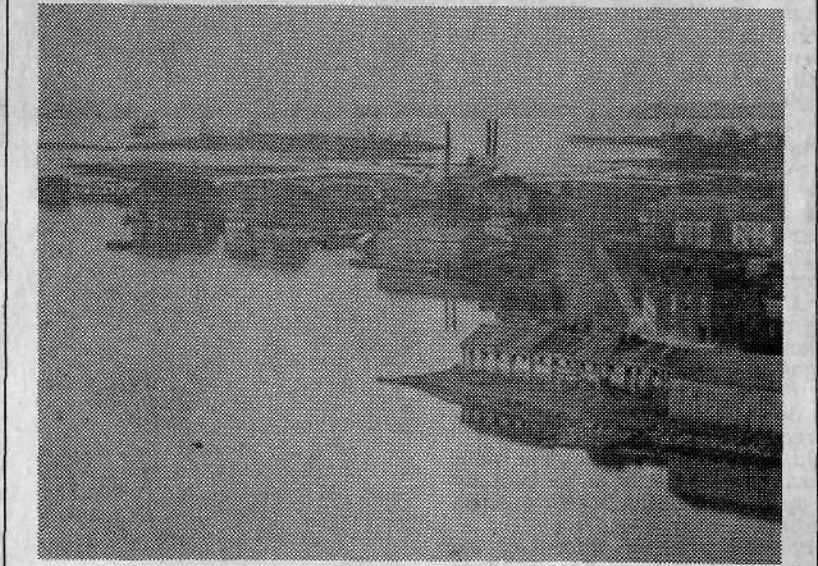
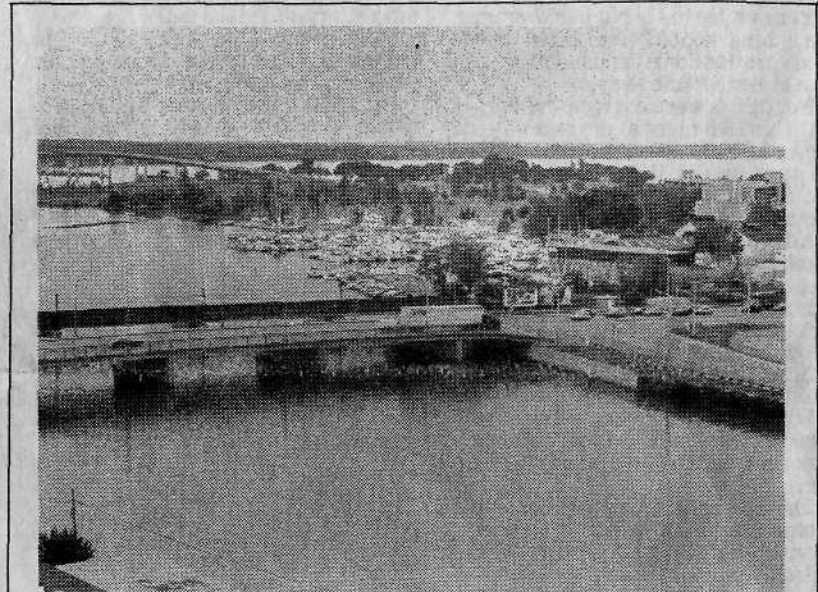
# A bird's eye view: 110 years later

By Bill Whitelaw  
City Editor

In 1878, on the eve of Belleville becoming a city, photographer D. Morrice scaled the city hall clock tower to capture on film some panoramic shots of a growing community. Now, 110 years later, the city continues to grow. But what the camera captured then is substantially different than what it sees now. Intelligencer photographer Frank O'Connor scaled the scaffolding which currently enshrouds city hall this week and recaptured the same scenes his photographic predecessor saw so many years ago.

In their own way, each photographer's feat was equally difficult. For his part, Morrice had to contend with the challenge of bulky, awkward equipment — in all likelihood, an eight-inch by ten-inch view camera. For O'Connor, it meant clambering gingerly around the scaffolding used by the crews currently rejuvenating the building's exterior as part of an overall multi-million dollar renovation project. Judging from the angle and elevation O'Connor found most accurately simulated Morrice's early photos, it seems likely that he shot from around the actual clock face.

It is probably difficult (right) to recognize Belleville's western waterfront by a quick look at these photos but close examination reveals there are still some similarities. Zwick's Island was, of course, originally an island — before it was a municipal dump and eventually a public park.



A part of the heating system of Century Place (left) blocks a good deal of the view looking northeast. But still apparent are the spires of St. Michael's and St. Andrew's. The old cour-

