

## An Impressive Structure

Few people who are attracted by the Town Hall in St. Marys realize that the basement of the building has two jail cells in it. Although they have not been used at all in recent years they are still there - bars and all. There was also a butcher shop in this basement area many years ago, but to-day the local police headquarters are accommodated where once animal carcasses used to be displayed.

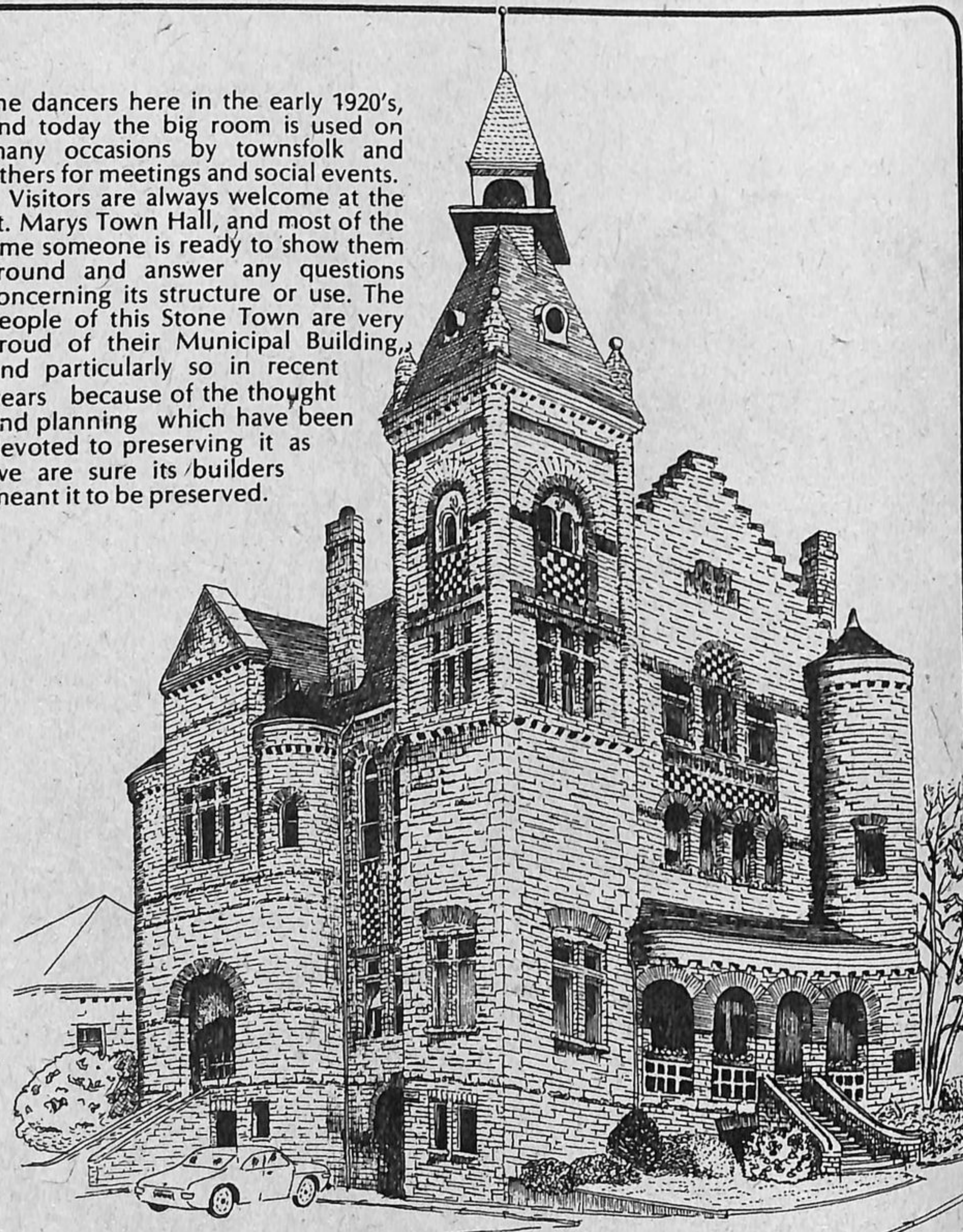
But what usually attracts most visitors to the Town Hall in St. Marys is their first sight of the magnificent stone work which was completed by Scottish stone masons in 1891. Visitors are also duly impressed when they receive their first view of the interior after climbing the front steps to the main hallway. The new touches to the interior applied in the past couple of years have only served to accentuate even further the charm of the old building.

In this main hallway one passes the entrance to the Town Clerk's office, the general municipal office the Board of Works' Superintendent's room, and the working centre of the Recreation Director of the community. At the end of the hallway is the lovely high-ceilinged Council Chamber with its tasteful matching furniture and majestic flags serving as a background to the table where the Mayor and his Town Councillors convene at their regular meetings. Nearby is the entrance to a pleasant and convenient room used often for committee meetings.

Moving up the main front staircase to the auditorium of the Town Hall brings another pleasant surprise. Thanks to the work of the St. Marys Kinsmen Club, the floor of this roomy auditorium was recently refinished, the final touch to a commendable redecoration program. Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians played for

the dancers here in the early 1920's, and today the big room is used on many occasions by townfolk and others for meetings and social events.

Visitors are always welcome at the St. Marys Town Hall, and most of the time someone is ready to show them around and answer any questions concerning its structure or use. The people of this Stone Town are very proud of their Municipal Building, and particularly so in recent years because of the thought and planning which have been devoted to preserving it as we are sure its builders meant it to be preserved.



COLIN McQUIRK

Pen and ink drawing by Colin McQuirk, perth country gallery. Originals may be purchased.

## Museum

One of the most impressive fine old stone homes in St. Marys houses relics from the past. The St. Marys District Museum is located in the historic Tracey house in Cadzow Park.

Owned by the Town of St. Marys, the museum was sponsored by the Queen Alexandra Women's Institute and was opened in 1959.

As well as the articles preserved from times gone by in the St. Marys area, several unique items are to be seen at the museum. Among a display of fine shawls of silk and wool is a shawl which once belonged to Laura Secord. A Breeches Bible printed in Geneva in 1600 is also on display.

There are a total of 13 rooms in the old Tracey home. The pioneer room houses articles used by women of the early settlers including utensils for spinning, churning, washing, ironing and making quilts.

Another unique feature is a wonderful collection of mounted birds which were found in this area over 100 years ago. Some species now being quite rare, they are of special interest to children of this generation.

The bride down through the years has not been forgotten. A display of the changing fashions in wedding gowns dates back to 1869.

There are many interesting items including heirloom furniture, oil paintings, pictures, china, glassware, clocks and musical instruments.



THE MUSEUM, ST. MARYS

Pen and ink drawing by Colin McQuirk perth country gallery. Originals and prints may be purchased.

## Town Hall Steps

In early times, the town hall steps were a definite focal point of St. Marys politics.

Many prominent Canadian politicians spoke from these steps including Sir Wilfred Laurier.

Politics in the late nineteenth century were sometimes taken to an extreme extent by St. Marys residents. Once a Conservative prime minister was to speak at a local gathering, upsetting to a number of female Liberal supporters.

The "lady Grits" decided to disrupt the event by spreading rumours of political assassination. After the tales had passed through the crowd, one of the ladies walked through the audience with her hat pin, liberally utilizing it to create panic among the Conservatives.

As can be guessed, the meeting was soon dissolved.

Don't limit your visit to the museum to just the Tracey House. Make sure you explore "The Barn" which houses a 1902 Baker Electric Car as well as other modes of travel and farm vehicles.

A 1913 motorcycle is an interesting item along with an old fashioned buggy and cutter. Farm implements include a turnip seeder, flail, cradle, wooden rake and carpenters tools.

The museum is open Mon. - Sat. 10-12 and 1-5 and Sundays 1-5. During May and Sept. daily 2-5 anytime by appointment. Visitors may call the museum at 284-3556 or 284-2293.

A visit to the museum could lead to other good times for you and your family as the children's swimming pool, swings and picnic facilities are also located in Cadzow Park.

## RON AND ROSE O'HARA ANTIQUES

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ST. MARYS

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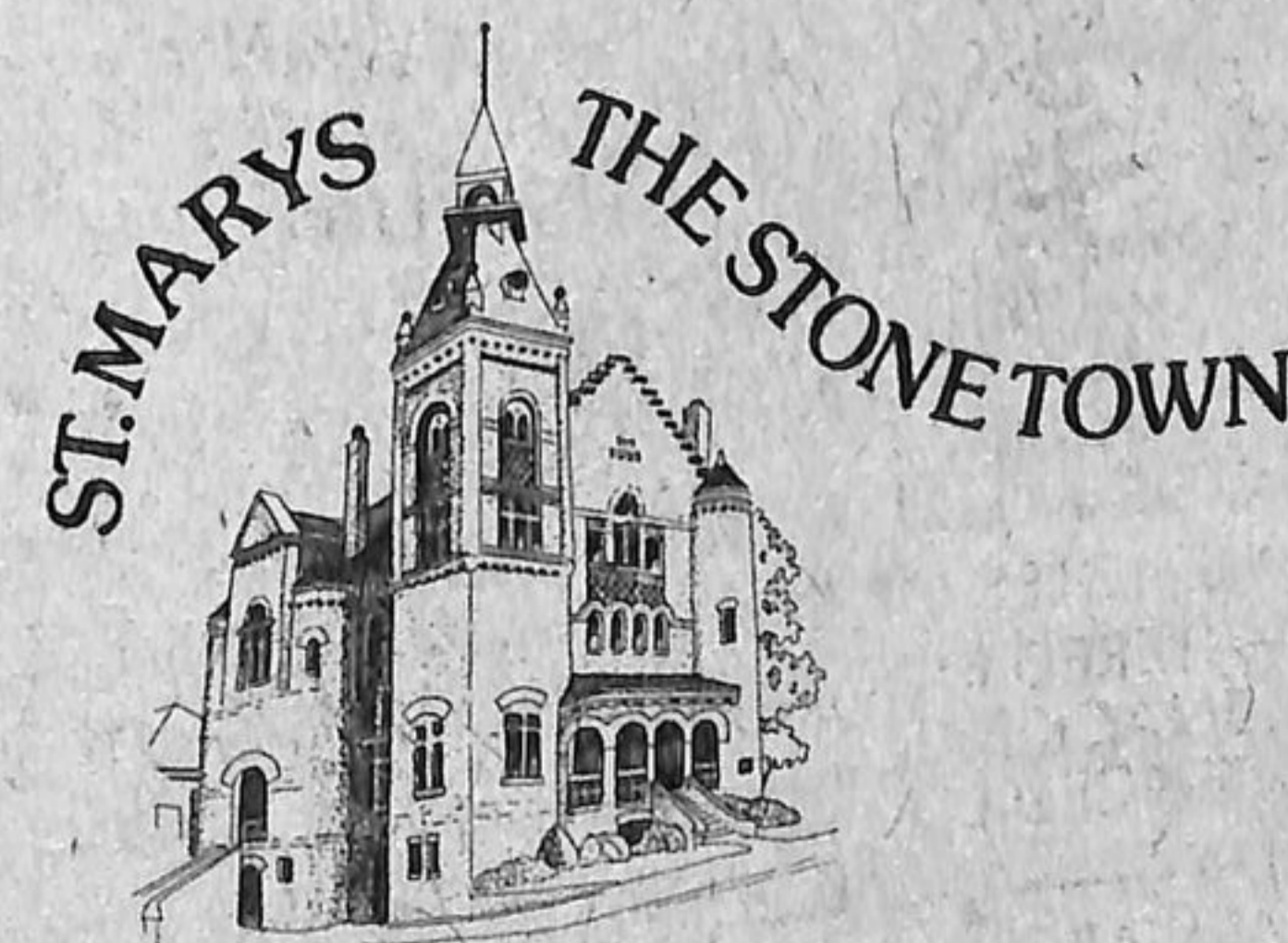
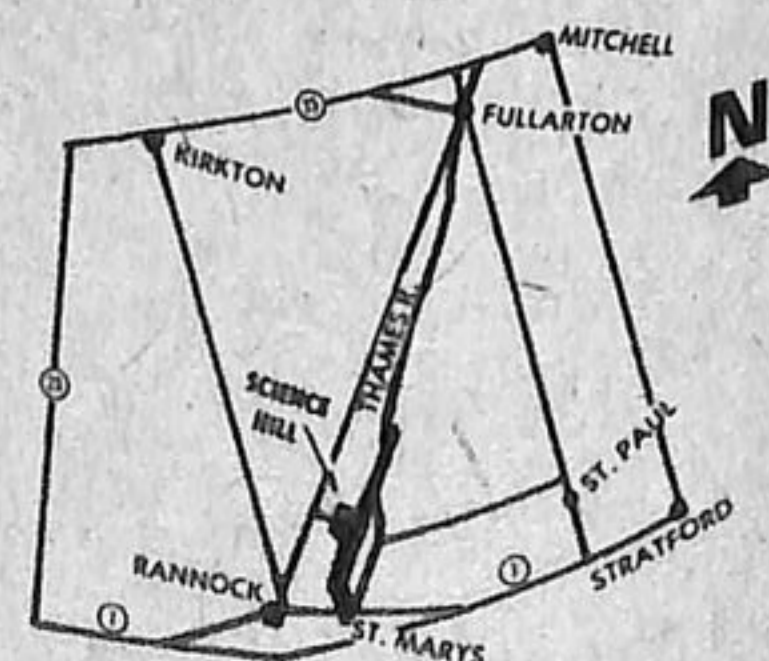


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St. Marys Merchants' Association

Only 12 miles west on highway 7 from Stratford, St. Marys sits in a beautiful valley where the River Thames flows on its way to London. Added to the rustic setting are interesting shops, restaurants, recreational facilities, (golf, tennis, camping, boating, the largest swimming pool in Ontario) and the Historical Stone Museum.