



Only memories will remain alive in old jail



With cell doors ajar, mattresses piled high in the corners, the Milton Jail is closed.

Destination tags are placed on almost anything in the building to be shipped to other jails and penal institutions throughout the province. Nothing will remain. Cookware, televisions and washing machines, even the filing cabinets are spoken for and are being removed.

All that will remain in the Milton jail and provincial court house are the memories of those who worked or stayed there. It was often overcrowded.

But the old building has a flavor all its own. The names carved into the bannister on the staircases. The large windows and high ceilings let all know they weren't above the law. The courtroom was physically constructed to elevate those of highest standing to the uppermost floor level.

Court will move to the Steeles Ave. complex, a concrete and wood structure, new, modern and lacking in tradition. Prisoners will no longer be held in Milton. They will be transported daily from the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre, the Metro Toronto West Jail or the Guelph Jail, to make court appearances.

For more than a decade, inspecting grand juries have been condemning the 115-year-old jail in Milton and calling for its closure. With the moving of the Halton Regional Health Unit to the new region building later this year, the whole block bounded by King, Mary, Brown and Hugh Sts. will be vacant. Only Halton Regional Police will remain.

