

## A new role...

\$8. In a subsequent report to the council the deficiencies in the dome were reviewed and the dispute was referred to arbitration. The town chose A. Armour of Brampton as its nominee and the contractor chose Samuel Jull of Oakville. These arbitrators were to choose a third and "proceed to business".

The next mention of the problem came only when council dealt with the payment of the arbitrators with costs totalling \$60 to be paid within 30 days. It must be assumed the dome was finally placed on the tower and the bell mounted inside, because later in August the town bell was being rung every Sunday for divine worship at 10.30 a.m., 2.30 and 6.30 p.m.

By 1868 the hall was in use, with offices on the ground floor being rented. A Gazetteer of 1868 lists town hall offices occupied by John Dewar Jr., County Attorney; Matheson and Dixon, Barristers at law and the Reading Room all on the main floor.

Basic changes in the town hall have been few over the intervening years. A brick addition at the rear of the building is of unknown vintage. There were the natural changes in interior use. In 1888 the vacant room at the rear of the hall was cleaned up for the use of the hose and reels of the fire-fighting crew. The tower in the front of the building was utilized at the same time as a hose drying tower by putting an enclosed box up 50 feet with a door opening off the first floor and a water tank immediately beneath.

In 1877 the council approved the purchase of a 400 pound bell "at the cheapest cost" and endeavored to obtain subscriptions to meet the unstated amount.

In 1883 the council evidently had concern about the stability of the building and appointed a committee to check the soundness of the structure. Apparently they were satisfied, because the building remains. The history of the building also reflects purchases of drapes, carpeting for the stage and occasionally new scenery for the stage.

In April 1889 the Royal Templars of Temperance gave the town the water fountain that is still in operation in front of the town hall.

The weigh scales at the rear of the town hall continued in use and in 1913 cattle as well as other produce were still being brought to the scales for weighing.

In November 1913 a furnace was installed in the building at a cost of \$200, which was presumably the first central heating installation.

The steps and front entrance to the building were altered in the 1940's with the steps being placed inside the front entrance.

By 1952 a major interior change came in the form of a new council chamber, movement of the library to the basement and creation of a police office on the west side of the building at the front entrance. At the same time the cupola was removed from the tower when it was considered to be unsound, and the bell was lowered one floor.

In 1955 modern panelling was completed in the main hall of the building, and in subsequent years minor adjustments were made in the office accommodation. The lowering of the ceiling in the main auditorium was the subject of study and discussion as the acoustics in the building attracted more and more attention, but action was not taken until the council agreed to the major renovation of the interior that has just been completed.

Now the hall is cast in a new role. The auditorium is gone and the enlarged council chambers dominate the building. The increased staff, from the early days of the town, is accommodated in attractive offices. The police force returns to the town hall and the fire department has left for a separate building. There has been change but the basic, solid building continues as the municipal administration centre of the town.

Town administration office clerk Mrs. Evelyn Zanatta is shown making out a receipt on a new posting machine recently installed in the town hall office.



Town assessor and building inspector Jack Charlton is shown at his desk in the new assessing department office, in the south-west corner of the Town Hall.



Acting clerk-treasurer Mrs. Audrey Brush shows off new furniture in the administration office, located in the south-east corner of the building.



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