



*An Introduction to*

*Your New  
Town Hall*

PROGRESSIVE  
DARTMOUTH'S  
NEW  
TOWN HALL

officially opened on  
DECEMBER 28, 1957

By His Worship  
Mayor I. W. Akerley



## A DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

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SINCE the year 1750, when the first settlers landed from the vessel Alderney and thereby constituted the founding of our Town of Dartmouth, it has been the dream of many citizens to have a Town Hall which would reflect the pride and feelings they have for the first incorporated Town in Nova Scotia.

Today that dream has become a reality.

Dartmouth can well be proud of its new Town Hall—a symbol of our faith in the future and a memorial to the men and women, particularly those who have held public office, who had the courage and the vision necessary to establish and develop this community.

The design of our new Town Hall is in keeping with the trends we see in the future. Overlooking the downtown area and the Harbor it is modern, impressive, yet not costly, and what is most important it contains sufficient space to permit a civic government to handle the affairs of a city with a population three times greater than our present Town.

Let us all choose this occasion to re-dedicate our efforts towards building a greater Dartmouth.

Believe me, I realize what a great privilege and honour it is to be Mayor of this great Town on this occasion and accept my responsibilities with pride and humility.

I. W. AKERLEY,  
*Mayor*

## SYMBOL OF THE FUTURE

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Poised like a sentinel with a watchful eye on its charges, Dartmouth's magnificent new Town Hall sits on a scenic block of park land at the bluff of Synott's Hill, a modernistic symbol of what still lies in the future for Canada's most progressive Town.

Many steps have been taken and many hands have co-operated in giving Dartmouth its splendid new civic office building.

It has been a community project all the way. Although various Town Councils have guided this undertaking to its present stage, it has actually been the "voice of the people", and later their efforts who have achieved its culmination.

Dartmouth ratepayers, the people who bear the cost of all capital projects in this Harbor Town, voted in public plebiscites preceded by traditional public meetings, both to erect the new building and to locate it on its present site. It is their building, and long after most have passed from this earth it will still stand as a symbol of this generation's faith in the future city it will govern.

The new Town Hall was firmly envisaged by a Town Council headed by Mayor I. W. Akerley who realized that the Town Clerk and his staff were faced with unsurmountable difficulties in their old cramped quarters. It was designed by a Dartmouth architect, D. A. Webber, and was built by a Dartmouth contractor, Harbour Construction Company's Bill Martin.

From the blustery March 25 when the first sod was turned, to the colorful Natal Day ceremony on August 7 when Mayor Akerley unveiled the cornerstone, Dartmouth residents have watched its erection with an air of expectation.

They have not been disappointed. From its distinctive quartzite trimmed exterior, (another down-east product from quarries at Lake Echo), to its home-spun interior walls of thermo-crete tile blocks from neighbouring Tufts Cove, this

home-grown building is one which will long be pointed out with pride. The sturdy masonry walls, supported by a structural steel frame, the solid concrete floors, and the main exterior finish of New Glasgow brown brick provide a building designed for many years of service. Brilliantly illuminated with dozens of massive windows the site for the new Town Hall provides a majestic view of the Town and its environs.

There are several outstanding features in the interior of the building. An impressive front entrance, complete with a receptionist counter and cashier's office provides a tremendous first impression for the first-time visitor to this building. The terazzo floors and stair well, finished with specially fabricate aluminum railing provides an attractive entrance to the second floor of the building. The entire front lobby is panelled in oak, and brick shrub-boxes at each side of the entrance add to the decor.

Council chambers are located on the east side of the building. Amply designed, they provide space for Council expansion to double its present size if the need arises. An audience estimated at 150 can be accommodated in this room. Beautiful writhed oak furniture for the Council room has been hand-built by craftsmen of the Halifax Shipyards.

Also on the main floor are the Town Clerks and Mayor's offices plus several committee rooms and the general office. The general office section opens off the cashier's wicket and provides ample room for increased staff at a future date.

Upstairs can be found the general drafting room, the Engineer's private and general office. A massive front office section facing on Wyse Road is being reserved for future expansion. Also on the second floor are the Assessors office and a machine room.

Coupled with considerable window area, banks of fluorescent lighting provide a finishing touch, to the interior. Pastel toned walls of thermocrete blocks, coupled with tasteful draperies complete the picture of smartness.

The basement section at the moment has been partitioned off for future expansion, and may eventually be developed as a Police station.



UNVEILING THE CORNERSTONE

## « Financing »

Overall cost of our eye-pleasing new Town Hall was \$275,000. This figure includes both the capital cost of the magnificent new building plus a considerable array of modern new furnishings.

A tribute to the foresight of Town Councils over the past few years is the fact that the capital cost of this building will be met without any direct affect on the annual Tax rate.

The capital sum will be paid through monies derived by the Town from the sale of some 214 pre-fabricated homes which the Town of Dartmouth purchased several years ago from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. These homes were permanized by the Town and then reoffered for sale to the original tenants and other residents of the Town at a nominal figure.



## PAST HISTORY . . .

Dartmouth's new Town Hall replaces a venerable old Ochterloney street structure that held an important spot in the early days of the development of this Town.

Originally erected as a Mechanic's Institute through such public fund raising projects as picnics and bazaars, the building was first opened on December 7, 1846 and employed for its original purpose as a centre of advanced learning until the year 1877 when it was transferred to the Town of Dartmouth, since which time it has been used exclusively for public purposes.

Dr. John P. Martin's "History of Dartmouth" reveals that such eloquent personages as Honorable Joseph Howe and the renowned Sir William Young once lectured in this historic building.

Civic affairs for the Harbor Town were conducted in this old building for almost eighty years to the day of the opening of this new centre.

For many years the Town police force was also accommodated in this building along with the Town Clerk's offices. As the Town started to mushroom during the past decade Town Council first had to find new accommodations for the Police force shortly after the end of the war, and with an increasing demand for space had to move out themselves to provide extra office space. As a result Council meetings have been held for almost a year in the Fire Hall auditorium pending completion of the new Town Hall.

## *"The Architect"*

Planning and design of our new civic office building was the responsibility of well known Dartmouth architect Douglas A. Webber, B.Sc., Arch. In addition to this latest achievement Mr. Webber has been responsible for the architectural work on many other Harbor Town public buildings including the Prince Arthur and Bicentennial Junior High Schools, the new Fire Hall and Police Station, Southdale elementary school and an addition to Notting Park School.



## *"The Builder"*

A long established Dartmouth firm, Harbour Construction Company, was the contractor for our new civic office building and council chambers.

Headed by W. G. "Bill Martin" this firm has played an important part in the past decade in the erection of Dartmouth public buildings.

In addition to the new Town Hall, Harbour Construction has been responsible for the erection of our efficient Fire Station on King street, the police Station on Dundas street, plus two new Junior High schools, the Bicentennial Junior High and Prince Arthur Junior High, along with Southdale school and an addition to Notting Park school.



NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## FACTS OF INTEREST

A reminder of the early days of Dartmouth is incorporated in the furnishings of the new Town Hall building. Two beautiful scenes depicting the Harbor Town will hang in the upstairs and downstairs lobbies of our new civic centre.

The scenes were presented to the Town by the late Mrs. Minnie Ward, and have been reframed in keeping with the modern theme of the new building. One depicts the Town of Dartmouth as seen from the exact location of the new Town Hall in much earlier days. The other scene is from the Nova Scotia Hospital property looking north and showing portions of Halifax and Dartmouth in the distance.

Two veteran "tillers" from the old paddle wheel ferry steamer S.S. Dartmouth will be mounted in the front entrance lobby. They are now being refinished and will be presented to the Town by their present owner, Brigadier R.E.G. Roome. In Memory of Captain J. W. Graham who was a former Captain of this ferry steamer.

In addition to these items a fire bell that long tolled the alarm of fires from the tower of the now razed old fire station will be preserved for the future. It has been refinished and will be erected in a suitable location near the new Town Hall.

1957

## MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN OFFICIALS

Mayor I. W. Akerley

Deputy Mayor Mrs. Gladys W. Guptill

Ward 1	{	Councillors: R. J. Ferguson William Crook
Ward 2	{	L. W. Granfield E. M. Beazley
Ward 3	{	E. A. Payzant Mrs. W. Guptill
Ward 4	{	Percy W. Dares Creed M. Hollis

### Heads of Departments:

Town Clerk and Treasurer	C. A. Moir
Town Engineer	J. Walter Lahey
Town Solicitor	W. deW. Barss
Assessor	W. J. Symonds
Chief of Police	John Edge
Fire Chief	George Patterson

# **DARTMOUTH**

**Nova Scotia's First Incorporated  
Town**

**and**

**Canada's Fastest Growing Town**