

# Milton Town Hall Heritage: History Meets Modern Day



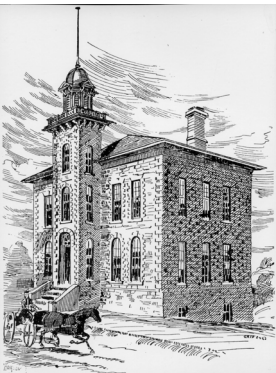
## Historic Town Hall

The Town Hall, originally built as the County Court House, was completed in 1855. The addition of the Town jail and jail yard took place in 1877. In 1982, the Town purchased the building from Halton Region for just \$1 and after restoration in 1985, it became the new Town Hall.

The expansion building (Town Hall East) and renovations to the old Town Hall (Town Hall West) have integrated important historical elements to honour our heritage, such as the stone walls of the addition, which are constructed of local limestone, from the same quarry as the Town Hall, to maintain the authentic character of the existing structures. A new display case in Town Hall West celebrating our heritage and history is just one of the elements added during the expansion to remind us of our past.

## Jasper Martin, Town Founder

A statue of Jasper Martin, our Town's founder, is enconced in a display case by the ramp to the Milton Room in Town Hall West. Created by sculptor Nancy Cuttle and presented to the Town during its 150th anniversary in 2007 by the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM), this fired clay statue is mounted on limestone from the Bruce Street School, which was Milton's first school.



## Original Town Hall and Market House

In Town Hall West, a restored wooden handrail guides visitors along the ramp to the new two-storey Milton Room. This handrail was originally installed around 1865 on the stairs to the upper floor of the old Town Hall and Market House, located on Main Street East, during the building

construction. The first Council meeting in the building took place on Monday, September 16, 1867.

## Jailer's House

In Town Hall East, a blueprint of a structure known as the Jailer's House is located in its approximate original location at 48 Hugh Street, at the



terminus of Hugh and Queen Streets. The structure was considered to be an important part of the historical development of Court House Square. The cultural landscape unit of the Square, which included the 1855 Halton County Court House (now Town Hall), 1877 Jail, 1915 Registry Office (now Hugh Foster Hall), the Jailer's Residence and Victoria Park, was an important collection of Ontario judicial administration buildings.

Built in 1915, it had many occupants over the years, such as the Governor of the Halton Jail, who lived here when Town Hall (West) served as the courthouse and jail. Renovations by Halton Women's Place, a later occupant of the dwelling, included the removal of a prisoner's cell in the basement.

The structure was demolished in 2007 to make way for the expansion of the Town Hall. The original window sills and stone lintels from the Jailer's House now form part of the stone fence that contains the parking lot on the north side of Mary Street, along with foundation stone from Mary Street dwellings that have since been relocated.



## Walls From the Past

Stone walls containing the Mary Street parking lot opposite Town Hall were designed to celebrate the historical value of this site and its neighbouring locations. The walls are constructed from stone originating from the same quarry as the historic Town Hall (built in 1855) and its expansion (opened in 2009). This structure includes foundation stone from two heritage buildings, which were relocated from this site in 2006 (155 and 167 Mary Street). It also contains stone lintels and window sills from the Jailer's House (48 Hugh Street), originally situated at the terminus of Queen and Hugh Streets.

The Town of Milton, in conjunction with Heritage Milton, undertook Heritage Assessment Reports on the Mary Street dwellings and implemented the option to relocate the structures. Ontario Heritage Trust acknowledged the Town's effort to preserve the historic buildings on the north side of Mary Street through relocation within the existing neighbourhood.

Ontario Heritage Trust supported the Town's desire and the Heritage Assessment Report recommendation to maintain and re-establish the sense of built enclosure that the Mary Street dwellings previously provided to the site of the Town Hall, which led to the construction of the stone walls.

# History of Town Hall Meeting Rooms

Reprinted from the book "Milton Streets" with permission of the Milton Historical Society.

**Nassagaweya Room:** Nassagaweya was originally named Nasagiweya by the Chippewa Indians, a term meaning "between two waters or streams." It is now named for the former Township of Nassagaweya. Although surveyed in 1819, it was settled at a later date than other townships in Halton, largely because it was less accessible than land lying closer to the lake and below the Niagara Escarpment. Nassagaweya was principally settled by immigrants from the British Isles and the sons and daughters of United Empire Loyalists from the Niagara district. The British, in most cases, were too poor to buy land while the Loyalists were provided with free land grants.

**Haltonville Room:** Also known as Sodom, Haltonville was first settled in 1845 when George Black built a home and shoemaker shop there. Other commercial businesses soon followed, including a general store, blacksmith shop, hotel, apiary and creamery. The hamlet of Haltonville is located at the intersection of Guelph Line and Fifteen Sideroad, in the former Township of Nassagaweya. The Township's war memorial is located prominently on the corner to recognize the sons of the Township who paid the supreme sacrifice in World Wars I and II.

**Omagh Room:** The village of Omagh was settled by Irish immigrant John Beaty in 1819. A hotel and a church were constructed in the 1850s. By 1858, there were approximately 100 residents in the Omagh community. Omagh is located at the intersection of Britannia Road and Fourth Line in the former Township of Trafalgar.

**Peru Room:** Peru is located on Peru Road, north of Steeles Ave. where the Sixteen Mile Creek crosses the road, in the former Township of Nassagaweya. The hamlet was the birthplace of Dr. Edwin Robertson, noted surgeon and pediatrician at the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto.

**Trafalgar Room:** Named for Trafalgar Township, the former municipality once included the Milton site. Trafalgar Township was named for the Battle of Trafalgar of 1805, a celebrated naval conflict off Cape Trafalgar on the southern coast of Spain. The battle was won by the British, who were led by Viscount Horatio Nelson (1758 – 1805). In 1820, the Township's first post office was opened at Post's Corners, now the junction of Trafalgar Road and Highway 5.

**Agerton Room:** This hamlet, also known as Auburn, was settled about 1869 with the establishment of a blacksmith shop. An inn was constructed in 1877. Agerton was located at the intersection of Trafalgar and Derry Roads, in the former Township of Trafalgar.

**Boyne Room:** This hamlet is named for the Boyne River, which rises from the Bog of Allen in

County Kildare, Ireland, and empties into the Irish Sea. The area of Boyne was settled about 1819 by Irish immigrants. A frame school was built in 1835 on land donated by Peter Schraman. A post office was established in 1861. Boyne is located at what is now the intersection of Britannia Road and Regional Road 25.

**Brookville Room:** Named for Thomas Easterbrook, the village of Brookville was settled in 1852 when Mr. Easterbrook built a general store there. That was followed over the next 40 years by buildings for a harness shop, tailor, veterinarian, cooper, hotel and a Town Hall. In 1900, fire destroyed four buildings, leaving the Town Hall and the general store. The hall was moved and reconstructed in 1987. Brookville is located just north of the intersection of Guelph Line and Fifteen Sideroad, in the former Township of Nassagaweya.

**Campbellville Room:** The village of Campbellville is named for John Campbell, who settled in the area in 1832. The village quickly became an area centre for commerce over the next few years, with the establishment of a saw mill, blacksmith shop, tavern, general store and, in 1849, a post office. Campbellville was incorporated as a police village in 1914. A thriving rural community today, it is located just south of the intersection of Highway 401 and Guelph Line, in the former Township of Nassagaweya.

**Esquesing Room:** Named for the former Township of Esquesing, this area is located at the north end of what is now rural Milton. Under the survey of 1819, the whole of Esquesing was open for settlement. Like Nassagaweya, Esquesing saw a great influx of settlers from the British Isles and Loyalist sons and daughters from the Niagara district. In the case of settlers from Britain, the Scotch predominated in the southwest corner of the Township, forming the Scotch Block. The portion in Milton is bounded by Steeles Avenue, Five Side Road, Second Line and the Fifth Line.

**Drumquin Room:** Named for Drumquin, Ireland, this was the birthplace of its first inhabitant, Thomas Patterson, who settled the area and named it in 1820. A tavern and store were established in Drumquin in 1858, followed by a post office and blacksmith shop in 1877. Drumquin is located at the intersection of Trafalgar and Britannia Roads in the former Township of Trafalgar.

**Darbyville Room:** This hamlet was named for Edward Darby, who opened a wagon shop and blacksmith shop in 1838; however, it was settled in 1837 by John Taylor. A general store and carpenter shop were established in the hamlet many years later. Darbyville was located at the

intersection of Guelph Line and Twenty Side Road, in the former Township of Nassagaweya.

**Fallingbrook Room:** This neighbourhood was registered by Douglas Henderson on June 28, 1954. It was named for its location on a tract of grassland near a number of small streams, mostly tributaries of the nearby Sixteen Mile Creek. The Fallingbrook Neighbourhood is bounded by Bronte Street to the west, Ontario Street to the east, a combination of Anne Boulevard, Maplewood Crescent and Williams Avenue to the south and a combination of Elmwood Crescent and J.M. Denyes Public School to the north.

**Mountain View Room:** This neighbourhood was named for the view it affords of the Niagara Escarpment from its most westerly vantage point. Mountain View is bounded by Steeles Avenue to the north, Ontario Street to the east, Bronte Street to the west and a combination of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Woodward Avenue to the south.

**Dorset Park Room:** Registered in October 1973, this neighbourhood was named by British residential construction firm Wimpey Homes for Dorset County in southern England, an area of hilly terrain and chalk downs on the English Channel. The Dorset Park Neighbourhood is bounded by Steeles Avenue to the north, Main Street East to the south, Ontario Street North to the west and Thompson Road to the east.

**Valley View Room:** Registered in November 1973, this neighbourhood is named for the view this area affords of the lowlands and parklands around the Sixteen Mile Creek. The Valley View Neighbourhood is bounded by the Sixteen Mile Creek to the north, Derry Road to the south, Commercial Street to the west and a combination of the Sixteen Mile Creek and Ontario Street South to the east.

**Forest Grove Room:** Registered by George Doty in May 1953 and developed by Active Subdivisions Ltd., this neighbourhood was named for the considerable stand of deciduous and coniferous trees that dominate the area. The Forest Grove Neighbourhood is bounded by Evergreen Cemetery to the north, Parkway Drive to the south, Ontario Street to the east and Sixteen Mile Creek to the west.

**Milton Room:** Milton's earliest beginnings can be traced back to 1825, when an enterprising young man named Jasper Martin built a gristmill on a mill pond. By harvesting the power of the swiftly flowing water, Jasper's gristmill prospered and grew to become the centre of a settlement called Martin's Mills, with a population of just 100 people in 1837. The townspeople soon changed the name of the town to Milton because of the Martin family's fondness for the poet John Milton.