

Do you notice anything missing from the Town Hall tower?



Collingwood Museum Collection, X970.979.1

The large clock tower at Collingwood's Town Hall, 97 Hurontario Street, is a recognizable sight in many historic photographs. There is one very noticeable difference between these early photographs and today's structure—the tower was without a clock until 1951.

Collingwood's iconic Town Hall was constructed in 1889 as a multi-purpose "Market Building" by Toronto architects. The original building housed a courtroom, council chambers, an opera house, retail stores and a farmers market. When it opened in 1890 it was missing only one thing, a clock.

The new building had only been open a few short months when a fire broke out at a property directly beside it. The fire quickly spread and only the walls of Collingwood's new Town Hall were left standing. Local architects Fred T. Hodgson and Thomas Kieswetter took charge of the reconstruction, making several improvements to the original plan and in 1891 Town Hall re-opened, still missing a clock.

In 1951, a four-faced clock was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Courtice of Collingwood.