

MARMORA TOWN HALL

1913

In 1913, Council found itself in a difficult position. The Old Town Hall was decrepit and was publically referred to as "a relic like the arc". Unfortunately, however, all the tenders for a new hall were too high.

The Councillors resolved to erect this Hall by "day labour" under the direction of Stanislaw Bertrand. Reeve W.H. Hubbell obtained \$9,000.00 on debentures while at the Good Roads Convention in Toronto.

The first Patriotic Rally for the Great War was held here on November 11, 1914. From the gallery, the Deloro Orchestra played and a choir of fifty voices sang. "Misses Beryl Hubbell, Olive Deacon and Cora McCracken marched onto the stage dressed and carrying flags to represent France, Belgium and Serbia." Frank S. Pearce sang "It's a Long Way to Tipperary". Fifteen boys volunteered and left Marmora the next day.

Five years later the boys were welcomed home here by Spragues' Orchestra with dancing from "8:30pm to 2:00am".

Music was always a favourite. In 1920, the town was introduced to the "Appolophone". It was described as an instrument "with plenty of snap", 17 feet long, and "with unlimited possibilities".

Over the years this building has served many other purposes from Law Courts to Badminton Courts, and from Movie Theatre to Operating Theatre for tonsillectomies. The Great Hall upstairs has swung to the sounds of minstrel music, reverberated with the laughter of vaudeville and rung to the rally cries of politicians, including Prime Minister Arthur Meighen and Provincial Premiers, Howard Ferguson and Bob Rae.