

## Marmoros Town Hall

by Aline Smith

The Historic Town Hall in Marmoros will be the first site to visit on June 30 when St. Paul's Anglican Church Women (ACW) host their second annual Historical Home Tour. Registration will start at 12:30 p.m. at the Town Hall where light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Marmoros Historical Foundation.

The tour includes five historic homes, three in Marmoros Village and two in Scleros Village. Also included in tour is the Heritage Centre located on the second floor of the Marmoros Memorial building and the Scleros Town Hall where you might view a plaque detailing the colourful history of the tiny village. This plaque was unveiled Jan 1, 1996 and will be installed by the Marmoros Historical Foundation outside the Community Hall in Scleros.

The Marmora Town Hall was built in 1913 and officially opened on July 19, 1913. It was a two storey building built by Stanislaus Bertrand and the stones used were obtained from across the Crewe River. It was built on the site of a previous town hall built for Marmora Township. In 1900 Marmora Village was separated from Marmora Township and in 1901 Marmora Village was incorporated. Revere at that time was JOE WARREN, clerk - RANDOL SNELL and councillors were: WM. HILTON, W.E. GLADNEY, J.A. DONNELL, CHAS. I. STEED.

On Sept 3, 1914 new curtains were hung in the Town Hall and these were considered a work of art. The work was done by the Great Eastern Scene Painting Company of Toronto and the back drop of the stage portrayed a scene on the Rhine with old castle in the foreground, water and mountains. It measured 12 x 25 ft. in size and about four

feet from the curtain was a street scene with windows representing various business places. These curtains only cost the ratepayers \$26.

Many events have taken place at the Town Hall over the years. These events included Political Meetings (Federal, Provincial and Municipal), Candidate speeches, nominations, election results and parties for elected members. In the earlier years a famous Road Show (Chataugua) was very popular, several plays were presented, amateur and professional, there were dances, old time and modern, fashion shows, movies, children's programs, magic shows, teenagers dances, Halloween parties, senior's meetings, weddings, showers, receptions and anniversaries.

The United Steel Workers of America held Union meetings there also. Information meetings are <sup>occasionally</sup> held by Bell Telephone and Natural Gas Companies informing the public on proposed planning and services provided.

During 1967 - Centennial year, major redecorating of the Town Hall was carried out and a kitchen was added on the main floor.

In 1977, the Township Council purchased the Shell Service Station property owned by Clarence Rogers and hired the firm of Bronson & Bronson of Madoc to renovate the building into offices for the staff and in 1978 the municipal offices moved out of the Marmora Town Hall and into their new quarters on Highway # 7 west of the village.

In 1990 an addition was built at the back for a new entrance, washrooms and kitchen facilities were installed upstairs and new curtains were purchased for the stage and windows.

In 1994 changes ~~was~~ made in the lower floor included changing council chambers further back and ~~at~~ turning the chamber into office space.

The building now contains a council chamber & offices for clerk and staff on the ground floor. The upstairs has a large auditorium with a balcony and stage. In the early years it contained a jail and courtroom.

Alvise

Marmora Town Hall (Replacement on same site as <sup>top T.H. bought by Marmora Iron Co.</sup>

1901 Marmora Village separated from Marmora Township

Jan 01/1901 Marmora Village Incorporated - Reeve Jos. Warren  
Clerk - Rendell Snell  
Councillors - Tom Hilton  
W.F. Gladney  
J.A. Donnell  
Chas. J. Steed

1913 <sup>Storey Stone</sup> Town Hall officially opened July 19, 1913 - jail cell included

Built by Stanislaus Bertrand - of limestone from across river?  
& others

Building contained village & township municipal offices

? Marmora & Lake Townships erected their own municipal offices on Highway #7, west of village Year?

Renovations to Town Hall -

1967 (Centennial Year) - Painting etc. - Kitchen downstairs

1990 - Addition built at back for new entrance, washrooms  
new curtains for stage and windows

- Council chamber was also moved to further back  
" " then turned into office space

(During the 1980 renovations a bottle of liquor was found) Has it drinkable

Events at the Town Hall - 1913-1996 <sup>Marmora</sup>

Political Meetings - Nominations  
federal { Candidate speeches  
provincial { Election results & parties  
municipal

Plays - amateur & professional (Cataquias <sup>Road Shows</sup>)  
(spelling?)  
Dances - old time & modern  
Cataquias

Fashion shows

Movies

Children's Programs - Magic Shows Halloween parties

Teenagers Dances

Seniors Meetings

Weddings - Shows  
Receptions

Union Meetings <sup>United</sup> Steel Workers of America <sup>USWA</sup> <sup>ask Dept of</sup> <sup>if this is</sup> <sup>proper name</sup>

Information Meetings - Bell Telephone  
Natural Gas Company

Sports?

~~Cataquias~~ <sup>Cataquias</sup> Road Show?