

THE BRIDGEBURG MUNICIPAL BUILDING::: JARVIS ST. & CENTRAL AVE.

The town of Bridgeburg was incorporated in 1895, to include both International Bridge, and Amigari. Shortly after a two story frame structure was built, facing Central Ave. on the north west cr. of the alley that ran behind the old Methodist Church. The upper storey held the Council Chamber Attached to the rear of the ground floor was the village lock up, and the front section housed the hose cart. Large doors fronting on Central, made quick access to the street when the fire alarm was sounded. This was done with the use of the town bell in the tower. The nearest team, two hudge white horses owned by Ernest Benner were kept only a short distance away on Dufferin St. He was paid \$10.00 each time his team was used to pull the fire apparatus.

The first Reeve was John T. James: 1st Clerk, Henry Emerick: and treasurer Charles W. Vahey. All these men were prominent landowners in Bridgeburg. The Councillers were: Ernest Benner: William Hogg: Issac White: The first Census was taken by John Bethune, J.P. and John Atwood. This old building was demolished in 1922, to make room for the new.

In 1920 a By-Law was presented to borrow \$30,000. for the building of the new Bridgeburg Municipal Offices. The lowest bid however was for \$38,000 but the Concil thought by eliminating some of the essentials, such as a clock tower, and with the lower cost of labour, it was decided enough money could be borrowed to go ahead with the project. The architect was to be Charles M. Borter of Niagara Falls.

In 1922 a special meeting of the Bridgeburg Council was called to discuss the plans, as several of the members were holding out for a second floor. This they had planned to use as an assembly hall. However, after discussion with the architect, it was decided to go ahead with the original design. This consisted of a raised basement, and one upper floor. Room was provided for the Chamber and other Municipal office; the library: and the Fire Dept. which actually stood on its old site fronting Central. The Police Station and Jail were housed in the basement. Work was begun in 1922 and completed in 1923.

On May 25, 1929, Bridgeburg dedicated its Great War Memorial on the grounds of the Municipal building. This monument was moved to Mather Arch Oct. 1971. The Town Hall had a \$45,000 renovation in Oct. 1987, and at that time it was thought a new one would be standing by 1988. Nothing more than talk has gone on since.