

Council Chambers
April 21, 2009

**Council convened in session at 7:00 p.m. to
celebrate the closing of the Council Chambers at 59
Carden Street**

Present: Mayor Farbridge, Councillors, Bell, Billings,
Burcher, Farrelly, Findlay, Hofland, Kovach,
Laidlaw, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein

Absent: Councillor Beard

Staff Present: Mr. H. Loewig, Chief Administrative
Officer; Mr. M. Amorosi, Director of Human Resources;
Chief S. Armstrong, Director of Emergency Services; Dr.
J. Laird, Director of Environmental Services; Mr. D.
McCaughan, Director of Operations; Ms. M. Neubauer,
Director of Finance; Ms. A. Pappert, Director of
Community Services; Ms. L.E. Payne, Director of
Corporate Services/City Solicitor; Mr. J. Riddell, Director
of Community Design and Development Services; Mrs.
L.A. Giles, Director of Information Services/City Clerk;
Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy Clerk and Ms. J. Sweeney, Council
Committee Co-ordinator

**DECLARATIONS UNDER MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF
INTEREST ACT**

Molei Fu of Centennial High School sang God Save the
Queen.

Mayor Farbridge addressed fellow members of Council,
Senior staff and the gallery of memories over the years.
(Address is attached as Schedule 1)

Former Mayor Norm Jary advised of memories of events
that have taken place in the old Council Chambers.

Vince Wall was present as John Smith, the first Mayor of
Guelph and advised of debates held over the construction
of old Council Chambers and happenings in the City from
his time period.

The Mayor recessed the meeting and all present followed
the piper in procession to the New City Hall Council
Chambers, 1 Carden Street.

Council resumed at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the new Council Chambers at 1 Carden Street

The Centennial High School Choir sang O Canada.

The Mayor presented City pins to the following former members of Council in recognition of their service to the City:

Councillors Elected in the 1960's:

- Ken Hammill

Councillors Elected in the 1970's:

- Anne Godfrey
- David Kendrick
- Margaret MacKinnon
- Clara Marett

Councillors Elected in the 1980's:

- Rick Ferraro
- Jim Whitechurch

Councillors Elected in the 1990's:

- Walter Bilanski
- Cathy Downer
- Sean Farrelly
- Frank Maine
- Lynda Prior
- Marilyn Shapka
- Gary Walton

Councillors Elected in the 2000's:

- Ray Ferraro
- Peter Hamtak

Former Mayors:

- Norman Jary
- John Counsell

The Mayor presented pins to the current members of City Council.

The Mayor asked former Council Members Anne Godfrey, Margaret MacKinnon and Clara Marett to assist in the unveiling of a picture of Elvie Lowell, Guelph's first female elected as a member of Council.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting and invited everyone present to enjoy the refreshments provided.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 o'clock p.m.

Minutes read and confirmed May 25, 2009.

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Mayor

.....
Clerk

April 21, 2009
Schedule 1

**Closing of old Council Chambers and Opening of New
April 21, 2009
7 p.m.**

Once again, welcome to this special evening where we bid farewell to this Chambers and officially open our new Chambers.

It is wonderful to see so many former members of Council here tonight. Thank you for being with us this evening.

I want to particularly recognize Norm Jary, who is Guelph's longest-serving member, with 37 years on Council, and our longest-serving Mayor, with 15 years in the Mayor's Chair. We will have the opportunity to hear some of Mr. Jary's memories of this place in just a few moments.

I am also pleased to welcome former Mayor John Counsell. We are delighted to have you with us tonight.

I also want to mention that former Mayors Kate Quarrie and Joe Young could not be with us tonight, but they sent me their regrets and best wishes to all.

I will have the honour of more formally recognizing and thanking all members of both current and past Councils when we re-convene in our new Council Chambers this evening.

I would also like to take a moment to thank and recognize the City's senior staff for your professionalism and excellent work over the years. Particular thanks to our City Clerk, Lois Giles, who has 25 years of service with our City.

It is amazing to think of the number of hours the people in this room have collectively spent in service to the community of Guelph.

If these walls could talk, they would have a lot to say. For 152 years, these Chambers have been a place of passionate debate, thoughtful questions, camaraderie and laughter, and – always – a place where people have come together in an earnest effort to make our community a better place.

The very first by-law passed in this building in June 1857 was By-Law 66, "A By-law for the remuneration of officers for 1857."

The second by-law was "A by-law to authorize the issuing of debentures to the amount of 5000 British Pounds for completing the Market House." That was the approval of debt to finish this very building - the Town Hall/ Market House - because the budget was exceeded.

I want to thank Councillor Leanne Piper for providing these details, and the wonderful history that you will find in your programs.

As the history shows, it was not easy for the Council of 1856 to get this City Hall built. The idea to build a Town Hall and Market House was first raised in 1851. Town Council was divided, and the debate was fierce.

The *Guelph Advertiser* described the behaviour of one Councillor opposed to the project, Dr. William Clarke, as “fire, and smoke and thunder, and lightning, and gall, and vinegar, and brimstone, and melted physic bottle, in one terrible, scorching, withering, raging stream, fizzing, whizzing, and blizzing...”

I have to say, that beats even the most passionate debates I have witnessed in these Chambers.

The motion to build a new Town Hall failed that night in 1851. But five years later, when Guelph was officially declared a “Town,” there was renewed support for the project and Council decided to proceed.

The project was controversial and Council's decision was not an easy one. But, I think it's safe to say that it was worth it. This grand City Hall has served us well over the past 152 years. Its magnificent limestone architecture is a distinctive feature of our downtown. During its lifetime this building has served as Town Hall, Market House, Police and Fire Hall, performance hall, dance hall, prisoner lock-up, Mechanics Institute library and reading room, and court room.

It has been renovated many times. I am delighted that it will be renovated once again to serve as our community's Provincial Offences Court. Through this renovation, we will restore many of the building's historic features. And I will say now, you are all invited to come back for the grand opening when that project is complete!

I have always felt privileged to come to work every day in this beautiful, dignified, and gracious City Hall. Coming through the front doors of 59 Carden Street has offered a daily reminder of our city's great heritage and our responsibility to our roots.

It is certainly a privilege to be presiding over this Council meeting, as we bid farewell to these Chambers.

While I have a great number of fond memories of this place, I know they can't hold a candle to the memories that Norm Jary must have amassed in his 37 years of service in this City Hall.

We will now form a procession to our new Council Chambers at One Carden Street. I would invite current members of Council to lead the procession, followed by former members, guests and staff. A bagpiper will lead us from the front doors of City Hall.

New City Hall – 1 Carden Street

It's my pleasure to officially welcome everyone to our new City Hall and our new Council Chambers.

I'd like to share an interesting fact about our new Chambers, discovered once again by Councillor Leanne Piper. Prior to 1841, the meetings of what would be the equivalent of a Guelph Council were held outdoors on the first Monday of January each year. The meetings were held in the Wood Market, which was the only covered part of the Market Square.

What's interesting is that the Wood Market was located right about where we're sitting right now. So with our new Chambers, we are going back to where it all started.

We are very proud of our new City Hall. It will help us provide better service to the residents of this community.

Presentation of Pins

Tonight, I am honoured to offer a gesture of appreciation to those who have served this community – and those who are currently serving – as a member of Guelph City Council. I will present a special pin to each of you. The pin is unique to members of Council. It depicts our City's coat of arms, and our City colours of green and blue are represented by two emeralds and a sapphire.

I propose that all future members of Council will receive this same pin, as a visible token of their service.

Being a member of City Council requires a special level of dedication. There is a strong learning curve – and many, many pages of reading – to become versed in the vast array of matters that Council must consider. There are issues to be solved, constituents to be assisted, and decisions to be pondered. There are personal and family sacrifices in order to fit meetings and events into busy schedules.

So tonight, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize your service and thank you for making a difference in our community.

Unveiling of Picture Elvie Lowell

As part of tonight's program, I'd like to pay special tribute to women who were early members of Council, and helped pave the way for those of us who came after them.

In the Mayor's office in Old City Hall, I found a picture of Elvie Lowell, who was the first woman to be elected to Council in 1956. The picture shows "Alderman Elvie Lowell presiding at a meeting of Guelph City Council, December 5, 1967." Elvie was the first woman to Chair a Council meeting. We had the picture restored and reframed, and we will hang it in our new City Hall to thank and recognize Elvie and other women trailblazers.

In that spirit, I would like to invite three of those trailblazers to the centre table to help me unveil the picture: Margaret MacKinnon, elected in 1973; Anne Godfrey, elected in 1975; and Clara Marett, elected in 1977. Would you please join me at the centre table?