



WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Pump House

The water supply system for the Wellington County House of Industry and Refuge

After the completion of the Wellington County House of Industry and Refuge in 1877, it was soon evident that the water supplied by a well or collected in a basement cistern was not enough to serve the needs of the residents.

In 1884, eight acres of land across the road were purchased at \$400 and the spring water it provided was pumped to the building by means of a hydraulic ram. "The purchase of the eight acres of land.... has been completed and the excellent spring thereon conveyed to the buildings by means of a hydraulic ram. The water is carried 1,050 feet and raised about 93 feet. The ram, tanks and tubing are well covered and protected from frost and the apparatus is working most satisfactorily" (Council Minutes, pg.25, Inspector's Report, 1885).

In 1889 troubles with the water supply began. "The hydraulic ram, at present in use, does not furnish enough water...a windmill or some other power to pump water up to the House must be resorted to..." (Council Minutes, pg.20, Committee Report, 1889).

In 1890 a windmill was purchased and two iron tanks were placed in the attic, one in the main building and the other one in the wash house. The collected spring water was pumped into the tanks and supplied to the kitchen, laundry and water closets by gravity.

In 1896, once again, the water supply became problematic and "after getting estimates for electric motor, hot air engine and windmill powers, your committee decided to erect a steel windmill galvanized throughout, with 70-foot tower and 10-foot wheel" (Council Minutes, pg. 50, December 1897).

The contract was awarded to Goold, Shapley and Muir Co., based in Brantford, ON, and the wind power station functioned until August 1932, when it was replaced by an automatic pressure water system.

The mill on site is a Goold, Shapley and Muir, c.1910, sitting on a 30 feet galvanized steel tower. Established in 1892, the company has been renowned for its windmills, winning major prizes



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in the windmill test of the Royal Agricultural Society in London, England. In 1934, hard times had fallen on the company and its assets were liquidated and sold.