



# City of Peterborough

## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2010  
Peterborough, ON --

### City Hall Cornerstone to be Revealed After Nearly 60 Years

In preparation for the installation of a ramp that will provide better accessibility to City Hall, the building's cornerstone is being pulled from its position in the north wall of the lobby. The stone will be removed at 10:00am on Monday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Ontario Premier Leslie Frost laid the cornerstone on December 1, 1950 as part of the City's centenary celebrations and City Hall opened nearly a year later in October of 1951. Present at the opening were Ottawa Mayor Charlotte Whitton and the Mayor of Peterborough, England.

The architectural firm of Marani and Morris of Toronto designed City Hall. It is the first building built as a dedicated municipal office in Peterborough. Until then, the Council had met in rented space downtown including the Bradburn Opera House where Peterborough Square now stands.

Construction of City Hall was made possible through a bequest from the estate of William George Morrow, a wealthy financier who was a former alderman and mayor. It had long been Mr. Morrow's wish to see Peterborough have a City Hall that he felt befitted the prosperous community.

According to newspaper articles of the day, the cornerstone contains a small time capsule containing some coins of the day and microfilm of several documents. Microfilm was considered at the time the new standard in permanent record management. Contained on the microfilm is a set of blueprints of City Hall, several publications about the City published for the centenary, the newspaper of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1950 and records of Mr. Morrow's gift to the City.

The time capsule is not to be opened until 2050. Staff plans to inspect it to make sure it is intact and keep it secure until the cornerstone is reset in the south wall of the lobby.

This information is also available on our City of Peterborough website at [www.peterborough.ca](http://www.peterborough.ca)

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