



Commerce Prudence Industry

City of
Winnipeg

Official Opening

of the **NEW**
City Hall

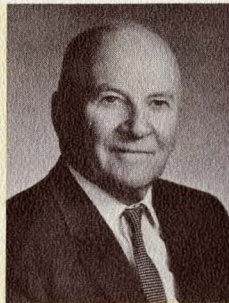
October 5, 1964

ALDERMEN, WINNIPEG CITY COUNCIL, 1964

Ward 1



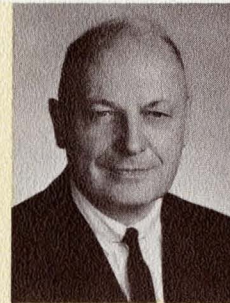
Ald. LEONARD H. CLAYDON,
four years on council.



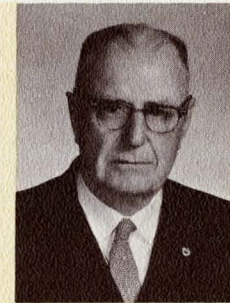
Ald. F. W. CRAWFORD,
ten years on council.



Ald. MARK DANZKER,
five years on council.



Ald. J. GURZON HARVEY,
twenty years on council.



Ald. D. A. MULLIGAN,
fifteen years on council.



Ald. EDITH I. TENNANT,
seven years on council.

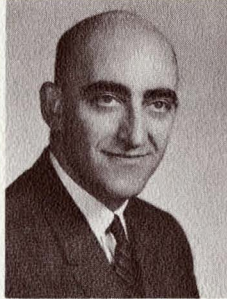
Ward 2



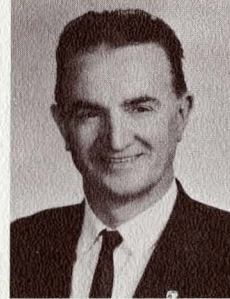
Ald. E. J. ENNS,
three years on council.



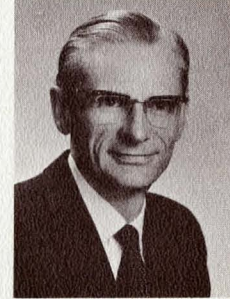
Ald.
LILLIAN HALLONQUIST,
twelve years on council.



Ald. T. J. HIND,
three years on council.



Ald. WILLIAM MCGARVA,
four years on council.

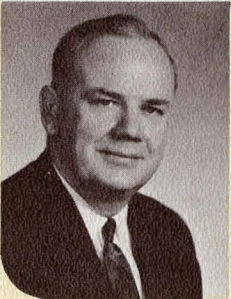


Ald. LLOYD STINSON,
three years on council.



Ald. A. C. WADE,
two years on council.

Ward 3



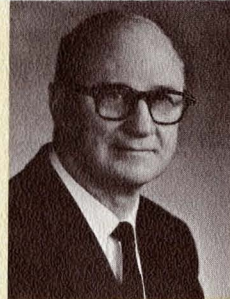
Ald. PAUL PARASHIN,
six years on council.



Ald. SLAW REBCHUK,
fifteen years on council.



Ald. DONOVAN SWAILES,
five years on council.



Ald. ALEX TURK,
two years on council.



Ald. DR. ISADORE WOLCH,
two years on council.



Ald. JOSEPH ZUKEN,
three years on council.

MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP MAYOR STEPHEN JUBA:—

The citizens of Winnipeg have a right to show real Civic pride today with the opening of the new City Hall. But it is significant to note one particular reason for this pride.

In constructing the two-building complex which represents Winnipeg's new City Hall, it has been possible to bring about huge savings to the taxpayer from a more efficient and better co-ordinated administration. Instead of the administrative staff of the City being spread out in five buildings, they are now centralized on one site. This means that the person who has business with two Departments, like the Engineering Department and the City Hydro, no longer has to go several blocks from a building on James Ave. to another building on Princess St. to reach both Departments. Now he only has to press a button and ride one of the Administration building's high-speed automatic elevators to the floors on which these two Departments are located. This economy of travel works on the other side as well.

Department heads no longer have to spend costly time travelling from one building to another to attend committee meetings. This inefficiency in Departmental operations and the provision of public services — especially during the last two years when the situation was aggravated by the temporary quarters the Civic Departments occupied — has been a trying period for all concerned. It has been only through the co-operation of the citizens and the Civic staff that this problem has been coped with as well as it has.

Although the new premises are being occupied it is reasonable to expect that during the period of transition and adjustment, some minor and technical problems will arise for several months to come.

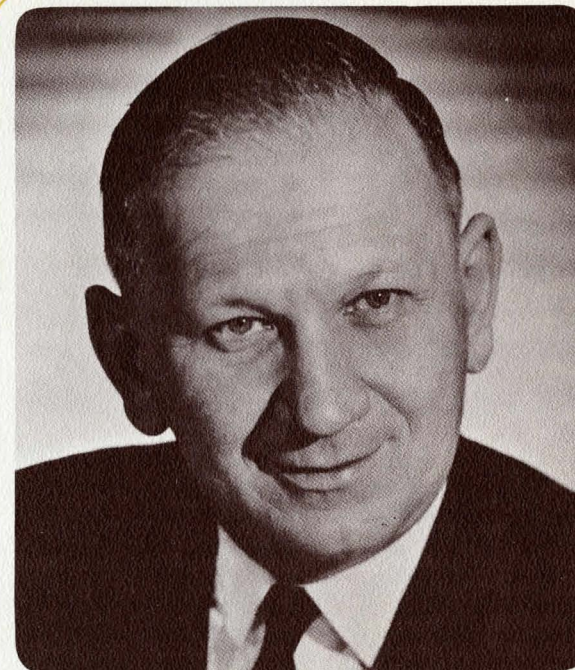
The successful completion of the new City Hall can be traced to several sources. The ratepayers of Winnipeg recognized the need for a new headquarters for Civic Government many years ago, and, in 1957, approved the borrowing of \$6,000,000.00 to construct a new building. Praise can rightfully go to the former Aldermen and present Aldermen of City Council, all of whom worked hard on the project.

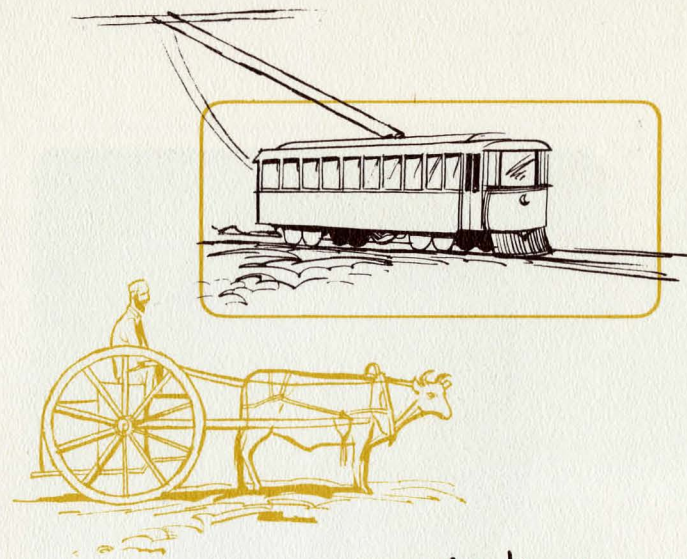
Without lessening the role played by any one of these Aldermen, perhaps the members of the Special Committee on Civic Centre — as the Committee of Council most closely connected with the project, along with the Finance Committee — deserve special mention.

The Architects and the General Contractor should be commended for their splendid co-operation in completing the project five months ahead of schedule so that the benefits of centralization could be realized that much earlier.

Then there is the important part the news media played in relaying City Hall events to the public so that the citizens could be informed.

The new City Hall reflects the concern of City Council that the finest facilities be made available for the benefit of the community it serves both today and in the future.





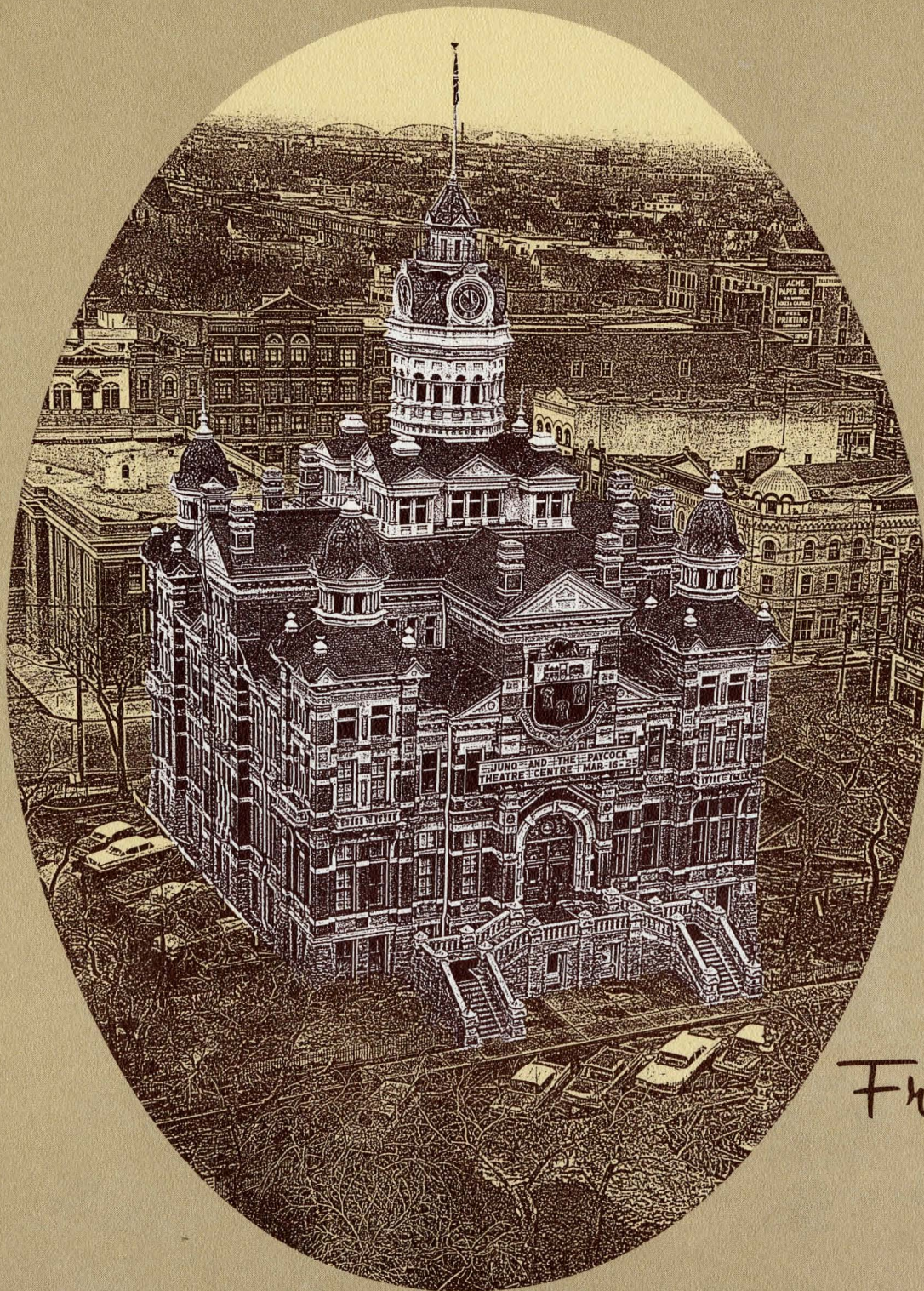
Winnipeg: A descriptive history



The history of Winnipeg has both its pages of excitement and its pages of achievement. There were the heroes, the intrepid pioneers who fought climate, terrain, Indians and even themselves, and the builders, those who put wood and stone together so that a new city — "The Gateway to the Golden West" — could be established.

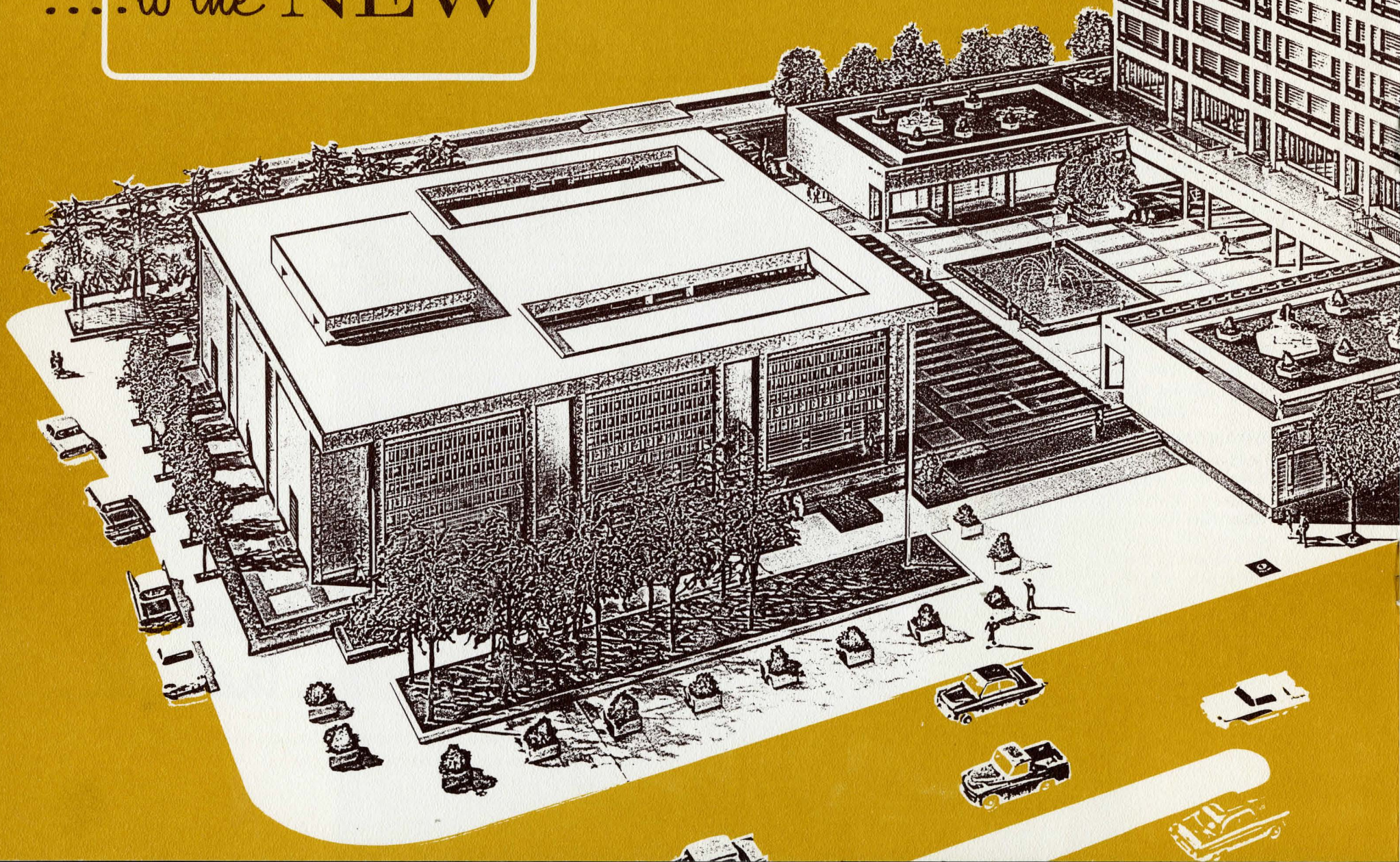
There are many ways of tracing this growth, but none seems best to show the basic pattern as a breakdown of the elements in the Official Seal of the City of Winnipeg. At the top, there is the Buffalo, the original owner of the plains. His day was during the exploratory period, when La Verandrye, the first settlers, the fur trading companies and Lord Selkirk sunk the roots of civilization. That famous emblem of the early days, the Red River Ox-Cart, was built, it is recorded, in 1801 for the first time. It had solid wooden wheels about three feet in diameter and was designed to bear the strain of getting pulled through Red River gumbo, called the stickiest mud in the world.

In 1873, Winnipeg was incorporated and officially shed its name tag as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post named Fort Garry. It consisted then of only a few score houses and buildings and only about 250 residents. Then came the railway engine, the second symbol of the Seal. It displaced the buffalo on the plains and was the forerunner of prosperity, paving the way for sheaves of grain, our third symbol, to make Winnipeg a real city. It was from the sale of grain that Winnipeg gained the impetus to grow into the city of 256,000 persons and bustling commerce we know today.



From the Old...

....to the **NEW**





PROGRAM

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY, NEW CITY HALL, CITY OF WINNIPEG,
OCTOBER 5, 1964

- 2:00 p.m. All invited guests to be seated in Council Chamber.
- 2:10 "O Canada" — Winnipeg Concert Band in courtyard.
- 2:15 Ribbon Cutting and Key Ceremony: His Worship Mayor Stephen Juba, Mr. Cecil Blankstein, of Green Blankstein Russell Associates; Mr. Jules Baert, of G. A. Baert Construction (1960) Limited; and Mr. E. G. Simpson, Civic Centre Co-ordinator.
- 2:20 Official party enters Council Building and proceeds to the Council Chamber to be seated.
- 2:30 Mayor Juba receives His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, Errick F. Willis, Q.C., and his party at the front entrance of the Council Building and proceeds to the Council Building, piped by two members of the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band.
- 2:35 Mayor Juba makes opening address and invites Lieutenant Governor Willis and Premier Duff Roblin to speak.
- 2:55 City Hall plaque, west wall of Council Building lobby, is dedicated by the Most Reverend H. H. Clark, Archbishop of Rupertsland and Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; Dr. Milton Aron, Rabbi, Shaarey Zedek Synagogue; and the Most Reverend George B. Flahiff, C.S.B., D.D., Archbishop of Winnipeg.
- 3:05 Mayor Juba unveils and reads plaque on east wall of Council Building lobby.
- 3:15 Special meeting of Council:
HEARING DELEGATIONS;
—Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce;
—Mr. Jules Baert, of G. A. Baert Construction Limited;
—Motions of Council Members.
- 3:30 Council adjourns and moves to Aldermen's lounge.
- 3:35 Tours of new City Hall commence, starting from Council Chamber.
- 4:00 First tour group reaches cafeteria and lounge for tea.

DEDICATION

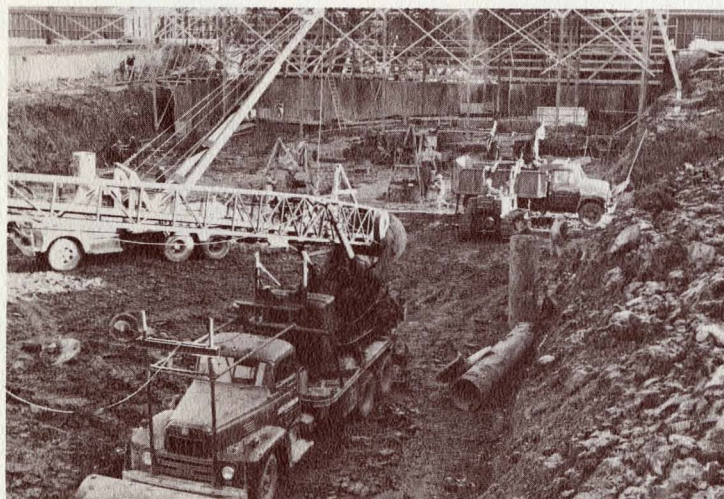
THIS BUILDING IS DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG. IT HONOURS
THOSE WHO FOUNDED THIS COMMUNITY AND ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. IT
ALSO SYMBOLIZES THE FAITH OF WINNIPEG'S COUNCIL
AND ALL WHO RESIDE HERE IN FREE INSTITUTIONS IN
CANADA AND IN THE FUTURE OF THIS CITY.

1964

City Hall Demolition
Spring 1962

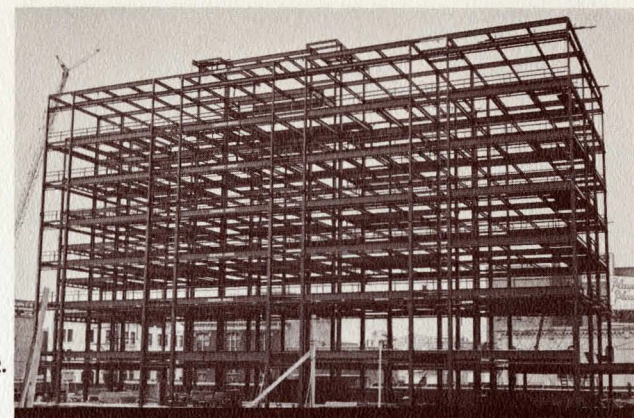


CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



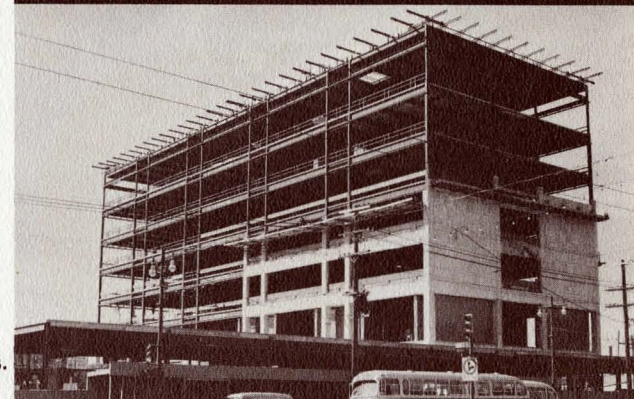
1.

1. NOVEMBER 26, 1962



2.

2. APRIL 10, 1963



3.

3. JULY 11, 1963



4. AUGUST 6, 1963



4.

5. SEPTEMBER 10, 1963



5.

The story of Three City Halls



COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION
courtesy of
INTERNATIONAL NICKEL

Seldom can anyone claim that there is only one side to a story or even that there is only one story. This is probably true in the case of the two City Halls that the City of Winnipeg has had down through the past and the one we have now. Nevertheless, there is much evidence to suppose that the story of Winnipeg's three City Halls up to now has run according to the following pattern.

Our first City Hall was completed in 1876, with the cost ranging between \$30,000 and \$40,000. But even by Christmas of 1875, there were serious doubts about what the city was getting for its money. A tour of the building by ratepayers disclosed several cracks in the foundation and walls and a very noticeable sagging of the second floor. These difficulties were said to have been caused by the proximity of the building to Brown's Creek. Excuses and props used to hold the staggering building up in the next few years did no good, however, and the first City Hall collapsed. This took place in 1882.

Next year, council held an architectural contest for a new City Hall with a top prize of \$300. The firm of Barber and Barber was declared winner and Robert Dewar was awarded the construction contract for \$78,500. After some trouble with preliminary excavations, the contractor ran out of money. Another contract went to A. Ponton to finish the job. Council at this time became suspicious of the Barber and Barber specifications. Another architect, called in to examine the original specifications, reported some inconsistencies. For example, there was enough pipe called for in the plans to go round City Hall 95 times, forming "a shot-proof casing or bulwark seven feet, eleven inches high to protect aldermen in case of a riot." Council fired Barber and Barber. At the cornerstone laying for this City Hall in 1884, there was a prediction made that it would last 100 years. Construction on the building was completed in 1886.

The actual life of the second City Hall — figured from the time of its completion to when it was demolished in March, 1962, to make way for our new building — was 76 years. Fate started

numbering its years, however, as far back as 1906, when city council decided a new City Hall was needed. Another architectural contest was held and six years later, in 1912, a design submitted by Regina architect F. H. Portnall was selected. But, Mr. Portnall's City Hall never got farther than the drawing board. The First World War intervened and when 1919 arrived, hard times and scarce money put in an appearance, soon to be reinforced with the depression days of the 1930's.

After the Second World War, discussions were revived on the necessity of a new City Hall. Talks this time centred on a site. It was an important question, one which took up several years. Winnipeg ratepayers were asked in 1957 to approve the borrowing of \$6-million for a new City Hall. They said "yes." But this still did not bring the desired results. In 1958, signs became evident the second Winnipeg City Hall was getting old. Some large chunks of plaster broke off from the stairway ceiling above some visitors in the building and narrowly missed injuring them. Then, in 1961, Metro engineers condemned the ancient, crumbling clock tower of the City Hall and warned that the stone structure may at any moment plunge to the second floor of the building. City council decided that March to go ahead with a new City Hall on the same site as the old building. On July 31, 1961, the old tower clock stopped for good as workmen demolished the tower in the first step towards the eventual tearing down of the whole building a year later.

A contract was awarded to G. A. Baert Construction (1960) Limited on October 16, 1962, and work began on the expanded site lying between Main and King Streets and William and James Avenues the next month with Green Blankstein Russell Associates the architects for the job. Work was carried out at a normal pace that winter but was speeded up in the summer of 1963. This allowed council to decide to make special arrangements so the contractor could go ahead at full throttle over the next winter and finish the job well ahead of schedule. Some pictures of the day-to-day progress of construction on the two buildings can be seen on page eight.

Two prominent Metro Winnipeg firms played key roles in making the new City Hall the fine building complex it is. These were the architects, Green Blankstein Russell Associates and the general contractor, G. A. Baert Construction (1960), Limited. Following are some of their views on what was involved in building the new City Hall.

THE ARCHITECTS

The location of the proposed new City Hall and the plans of City Council for developing the area immediately west of the new complex presented us with certain problems. It had to be taken into account that no official plan existed for the immediate environs of the site. We expected at most that the City Hall project would spark commercial redevelopment of Main Street. Also, we were required to open up the site to give an approach from Main Street to a future public building to the west of the project.

Accordingly, our solution gave rise to an inward looking group of buildings, the character of which we could control, in order to provide on however small a scale a Civic Square. It also gave rise to the complete separation of the two functions of civic government, legislative and administrative, into independent buildings linked only by podium and below ground level by a gallery accommodating City Archives.

This separation established a cross axis on the site, formerly Market Street, that now awaits the construction of two more public buildings in the immediate background to complete the project's grouping.

The Council building houses the offices of the City Clerk and City Solicitor at the main entrance level. The council chamber itself is located at the head of a grand staircase. The return of the stair leads to the reception area above the main entrance which enjoys a view of the courtyard.

The Administration building houses the Welfare and Finance Departments in its two low wings, their having the most public usage. Separating

this level from the four other floors of departmental offices are those facilities that can best enjoy the proposed roof garden. These include public and staff lounges, the cafeteria and administrative meeting rooms.

The buildings are faced with Manitoba Tyndall Stone and Quebec Granite. Bronze has been used for all frame elements, screens and hardware, mainly because of its color compatibility with the other materials.

THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR

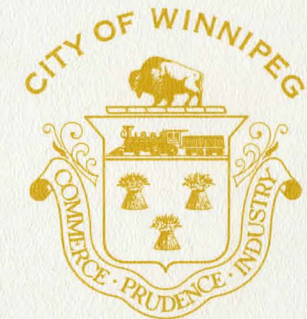
G. A. Baert Construction Limited is proud to have played a part in giving Winnipeg a new City Hall. The completion of the Administration Building five months ahead of schedule and the Council Building three months ahead of schedule has been accomplished, however, only by the unfailing co-operation that was maintained between our company, the architects, Green Blankstein Russell Associates, the city staff and the more than 30 subcontractors who worked hard to meet deadlines together. It is clear that this kind of teamwork is the reason behind the occupancy of both buildings in 23 months of construction time.

Credit is due the Winnipeg Hydro which provided excellent co-operation in getting a power supply to the project as soon as it was needed and in energizing the transformer vault. This allowed elevator construction and heating equipment to be put into operation so that work could be carried out indoors during the winter.

Most of the special problems that had to be contended with in building the new City Hall were those that are usually encountered where there is a drastic change of temperature in different seasons. One problem here was the necessity to do all welding when the temperature was at least 40 degrees above zero. Water pressure testing of pipes also had to be done in warm weather. This meant the erection of piping had to be rushed. If the testing were not carried out, the walls en-

closing the piping could not have been finished on schedule and the building might have been delayed.

Of the total building contract of about \$6-million, about \$1.5-million was paid out for on site labor. About \$400,000 was paid out for on site labour during the winter months.

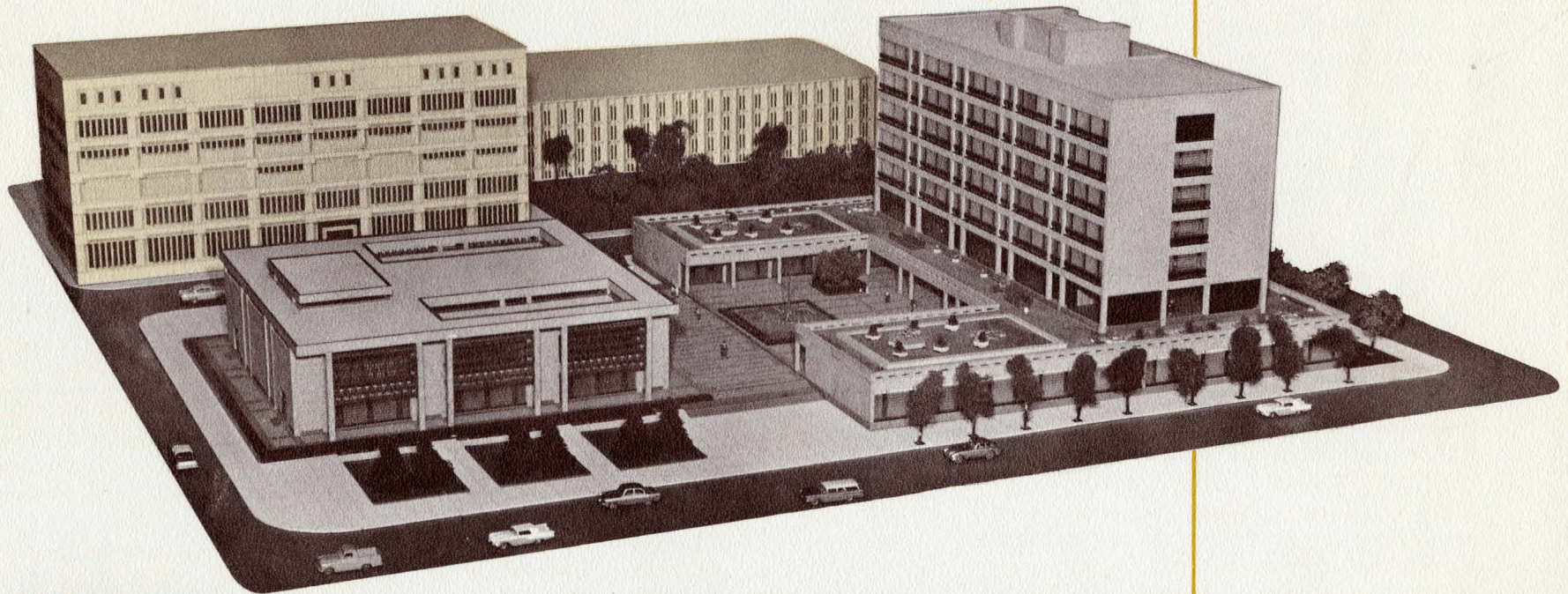


CITY HALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Cost of the new City Hall, including land and furnishings was \$8.2-million.
- Building contract cost alone was \$6-million.
- A complete sound system has been designed for the council chambers, including an attendant control console and separate microphones for all council members.
- Both the Administration and the Council Buildings are protected by a common fire alarm system connected to the City's central fire alarm station.
- The main source of heating for the new City Hall is central steam from the Winnipeg Hydro steam heating division.
- Materials used in building the new City Hall included 46,000,000 pounds of concrete, 14,500,000 pounds of brick and stone and 1,500,000 pounds of steel.
- Both buildings are completely air conditioned.

WINNIPEG'S NEW CITY HALL AND URBAN RENEWAL

In March, 1961, city council made two significant and far-reaching decisions; the first to enter the field of urban renewal and the second, to build a new City Hall on the original site of municipal government in Winnipeg. In the case of urban renewal, the city is now undertaking a program in co-operation with the Provincial and Federal governments that encompasses the redevelopment of the Lord Selkirk Park area, about one-half mile north of the new City Hall. At the same time, clearance has started for the new Manitoba Arts Centre directly across Main Street. Negotiations for redevelopment of the Midland Railway area, a few blocks west of City Hall, are in progress.



E. G. SIMPSON

Just as the schemes for redevelopment of areas north, east and west of the City Hall have grown, so has the concept of the City Hall site. Originally there were to be two buildings separated by a courtyard and fountain but connected by an underground gallery. Now, the Civic Centre is to include a Public Safety Building and a public parking garage. When completed in 1966, the Civic Centre will house 15 departments of the City and over 1,000 employees and provide parking for almost 600 vehicles. It will mean that operations formerly housed in eight buildings, spread over an area of nearly three miles in one case, will be centralized and will most certainly provide a more efficient and better service for the citizens of Winnipeg.

E. G. Simpson, Civic Centre Co-ordinator.



THE MAYOR'S CHAIN OF OFFICE: Presented to the City of Winnipeg
by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, October 5, 1964.