



Ceremony on December 4th, 2016 to rededicate the Rotary Clock Tower.

A TIME TO REFLECT

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

A historical landmark in Prescott that towers over the downtown area recently got a facelift.

The Rotary Clock is located at the northeast corner of Centre and King Street and has gone through many modern upgrades in the past year. These upgrades include; new clock hands on each of the four faces, replacement of the clock movement, refurbishing of the clock dial and re-glazing of the dial panes. The ringing of the 53" diameter, 3,136 lb. G & J Bell was automated. This work was commissioned by the Town.

The history of the clock dates back more than 80 years. In the 1920's, Mrs. Harriet Daniels bequeathed \$5,000.00 to the town. This money was to be used to erect a town clock on the Prescott Town Hall in memory of her husband Louis Hasbrouck Daniels. Mr. Daniels was a long-time Prescott resident in the 19th and early 20th century. He was the founder of the Daniels Hotel, which was located east of the present clock tower. Mr. Daniels was a town councillor for 6 years. At the age of 74 he became mayor of Prescott. He was mayor for two terms.

"The town hall had been built in 1874 and lacked a town clock. I guess Mr. Daniels thought that every decent town should have

a town clock atop its Town Hall", commented councillor Fraser Laschinger.

The clock was delivered to Prescott from Croydon England in 1927 and was mounted at the top of the Town Hall at the northeast corner of Centre and King Street. When the Town Hall was demolished in 1962, the clock, along with a plaque was put in storage.

Years later, the restored clock and bell were taken out of storage and remounted on a new tower at the corner of Centre and King Streets.

"The Rotary Clock Tower was part of a rotary initiative in conjunction with the town and its people in 1980," commented Chris McCorkell, president of the Rotary Club of Prescott.

The Rotary Club received support from the Federal Government's Neighbourhood Improvement Program. However, in order to raise their portion of the cost, approximately \$15,000.00, the Rotary Club held various fundraising events that included a bake sale and raffle. However, the most successful fundraising idea was the "Buck A Brick" Campaign.

Members of the club sold bricks for a \$1.00. Each brick that was sold was inscribed on the inside with the donor's name. These bricks were then used in the construction of the clock tower. There were 11,000 grey roughcast bricks in the new four-pillar tower. Every weekend and holiday, the Rotarians would sell the bricks at the base of the soon-to-be-clock tower. They also sold them at events such as Loyalist Days.

This campaign was a huge success. Residents as well as businesses were eager to be a part of history. Bricks were also purchased in memory of loved ones.

A time capsule was also buried in the base of the clock tower. Some of the items in the capsule include; a complete donor list, a photograph of Louis Daniels, a scrapbook of current history and a 1980 one-dollar bill.

On December 4, 2016, a ceremony was held in Prescott to rededicate the Rotary Clock Tower. Residents, councillors, dignitaries and former mayors were present for this ceremony. This was also the second annual Founder's Day recognizing the birth of Colonel Edward Jessup who was born in 1735.

"Passage of time does move forward and we are moving forward here in Prescott. I think the clock tower is a good symbol of all the things we have been doing in town in recent years," commented Mayor Brett Todd during the ceremony. **LH**

