

Elegance, Sophistication Combined In City Hall

Eye-catching New Building Gleams In Mantle Of Marble And Glass



"Just Wonderful"

Florence Hayashi — City Clerk's Department



"I'm Thrilled"

Evelyn Wiese — Building Department



"It's Too Big"

Beverly Mattys — City Solicitor's Department



"It's Very Beautiful"

Audell Schimmel — Assistant Director of Recreation



"What A Change"

Mrs. Winnifred Gartley — Streets and Sanitation Dept.



"It's Marvellous"

Norma Gera — Fire Prevention Bureau



"Beautiful And Cleaner"

Marie Hlepka, left, and Donna Pravica, Treasury Department, enjoy a break in the eighth-floor cafeteria.

By FRED MARSHALL, Spectator Staff Writer

Hamilton's new showpiece city hall is a combination of expensive elegance and sophistication. It leaps out of its Main Street environment to arrest the attention of unwary travellers still unaccustomed to this impressive newcomer to the growing family of modern edifices in the city.

GLEAMING in its mantle of creamy marble and glass, cut in the soft lines of fashionable architecture, settling confidently amid gentle landscaping and footpaths, it makes a compelling picture.

And, of course, apart from playing the part of a grandiose host to visitors, it is the functional centre of Hamilton's vast network of civic administration.

At its low-roofed outside foyer is reached, with the marble-clad pillars and shallow steps leading to the entrance, the prelude to an adventure is struck; and it is emphasized as the huge glass doors swing open, automatically.

THE ROOMY LOBBY seems to melt into office space and a central stairway dominates the scene. Up the stairway — or via the nearby elevators — is the second floor which really is the heart of the civic body.

Here, behind a bank of glass doors is the city clerk's department; at the opposite end of this floor is another sector of glass doors through which the low-slung furniture of an ante-room can be seen.

Beyond this, and down one side, are committee rooms. And it is in the largest committee room that the strikingly beautiful mural by Frank Panabaker, showing the rear of the old city hall and the market, occupies a whole wall.

Also here are the offices and reception room of the mayor, and the aldermen's reception room and board of control offices.

PERHAPS, though, the visitor will linger longest in the council chamber, unique in design, lush in color and fittings. Flanked by red, high-tiered chairs for spectators — numbering about 170 in all — is the horseshoe-shaped desk assembly for council members.

There are two blue leather chairs to each desk. The four central desks, a little larger, are for the controllers.

It did not take the city hall staff long to settle down in their new premises. And how are they reacting?

"I FIND it all very wonderful," said Fred Veale, building commissioner. "We're on the seventh floor and feel we're in Seventh Heaven."

The building department used to be in the old city hall some years ago, then moved out to occupy the butter market building, where the new addition to Eaton's now stands. In 1955 the department went to the Lister Building.

"We are used to moves — but this one was welcomed," said Mr. Veale. It was practically normal business from the day his staff moved in.

On the third floor, in the streets and sanitation department, stenographer Mrs. Winnifred Gartley said simply: "I love it — what a change!"

All the main offices have practically a full wall of window space.

On the same floor is the city engineer's department, which said Florence Hayashi, head moved in from their Hughson Street headquarters. Comment-

ed Edward Farr, of the cost division: "A vast improvement."

ANOTHER SECTION of the engineer's department is located on the fourth floor where receptionist Ann Bizzig said it was a pleasure to work — "and just look at the view."

"I think it's just wonderful," said Florence Hayashi, head moved in from their Hughson Street headquarters. Comment-

Miss Audell Schimmel, assistant director of recreation, on the fourth floor, described the building as "very beautiful."

Before the recent move, the recreation department was at the old Macassa Lodge on Brock Street.

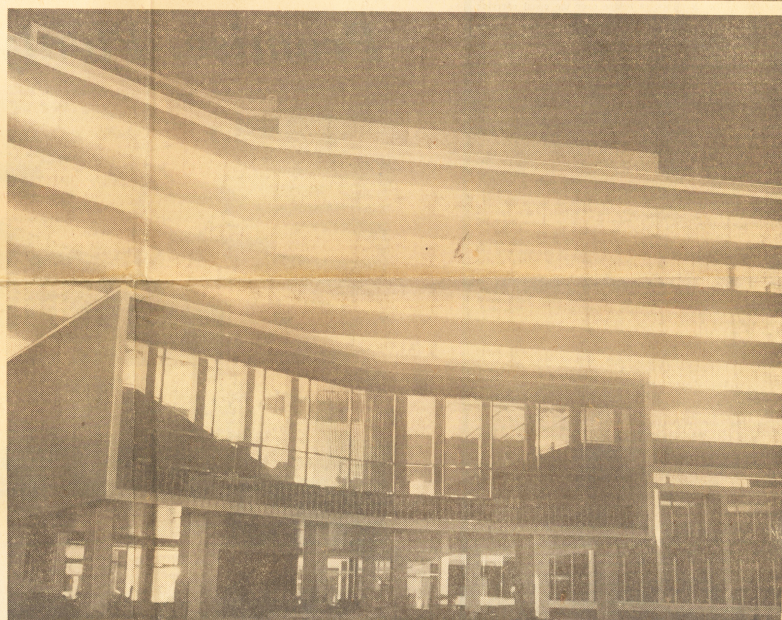
A YOUNG LADY who was less impressed was Miss Beverly Mattys, stenographer in the city solicitor's office.

"I'm finding it a bit too big," Jack MacDonald beamed as a she said. "You see, I take the group of visitors expressed their mail around, and compared with the old building I'm finding this means quite a journey each time. But I think it'll be OK when I get used to it."

A veteran in the city clerk's office — "It's really so nice," said he was quite overawed. "It is," he said, "rather elegant."

Mayor Jackson and Controller scribed it as marvelous.

A CASHIER with the building department, Evelyn Wiese, was "thrilled" with her new office — "It's really so nice," and also on the seventh floor Norma Gera, a stenographer with fire prevention bureau, described it as marvelous.



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