

# Memory Lane

EXPLORE THE PAST OF DOWNTOWN HAMILTON

VIEW MORE  
PROPERTIES  
HERE

## Capitol Theatre

103 King Street East, originally known as Loew's Theatre, was designed by architect Thomas W. Lamb and constructed in 1917 for the Loew's Corporation. Prominent New York architect Thomas Lamb was also responsible for the design of the Radio City Music Hall in New York, the Winter Garden and Pantages Theatre in Toronto and the Pantages (later known as the Palace) Theatre in Hamilton. The auditorium was constructed on the site of the former Brennen lumber mill on King William Street and was granted frontage on King Street East via an overhead crossing over the alley running east-west between John and Catharine Streets which was connected to a vacant store at 103 King Street East.

At the time of opening, Loew's Theatre was Hamilton's largest theatre and the second largest theatre in Canada. Loew's Theatre had marble floors in the lobby and a double set of marble stairs leading to the rotunda and theatre itself. The orchestra pit and balconies featured red carpet and green leather. The price of admission got attendees six vaudeville acts, a newsreel and a featured presentation. The theatre was taken over by Hamilton Theatre Limited and reopened in 1922 as the Capitol Theatre.

In 1930, the Capitol was assumed by the Canadian Famous Players Corporation, who renovated the theatre in 1958, including the removal of the steel canopy. In 1971 the movie theatre closed and in 1973 the rear portion of the building was demolished and replaced with a parking lot. The front portion of the theatre, what was the entrance lobby, was transformed into a restaurant. 103 King Street East has housed a variety of restaurants since the 1970s including Grapes & Things (1980s) and Joe Buttinsky's Bar and Wing Joint (1990s).

continued...



# Capitol Theatre ...continued



The lobby of the Capitol Theatre.



Interior of the theatre pictured in 1947.



The building after Joe Buttinsky's closed and before its renovation to become Escape Manor as it is now.