

# Memory Lane

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## Hamilton Provident and Loan Building (Effort Trust Building)



The Hamilton Provident & Loan Building at the corner of King and Hughson Streets in the 1880s. The Effort Trust building is now located here.

The Hamilton Provident and Loan Society was founded by Adam Hope in 1871 and combined the functions of a building society and a savings bank to create one of the most popular, successful, and useful institutions in the Dominion of Canada. Opened in 1881 and designed by architect D.B. Dick, of Toronto, the building was one of the best in the city, four storeys high and built of Ohio stone. The banking office was handsome, with fittings of massive walnut richly carved with panels of cut glass. The floor was inlaid with Minton tiles. The boardroom was finished with butternut in oil; and the furniture was walnut, covered with red morocco leather. The building had the first fireproof elevator shaft ever constructed in Canada, which operated by hydraulic, water-power. It was all brick, with openings at each floor with door sills of iron. The clock atop of the building was one of Hamilton's most noted landmarks, which was connected by telegraph to Toronto. Following in the trend to

increase assets and decrease competition, the Huron & Erie Mortgage Corporation of London purchased the Hamilton Provident and Loan Company in 1926. In time, the corporation was referred to as the Canada Trust-Huron & Erie Company.



This picture from 1903 shows spectators in front of the building and enjoying the festivities of the Hamilton Summer Carnival and Old Boys Reunion. The purpose of this festival was to celebrate the progress of the Ambitious City and to reunite those who had left the city. Not only were the public and commercial buildings in the city lavishly decorated, but many of the residential districts were beautified as well. The celebrations included a procession of illuminated boats at the beach and a parade every day. The finale was a fireworks display at Dundurn Park, presented by T.W. Hand Company, which was celebrated by an estimated 40,000 people who gathered at the park and thousands more who spilled over into Harvey Park, the cemetery, along the shoreline of the bay and across the bay, and aboard hundreds of boats on the water. This summer carnival was an immense success.

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# Hamilton Provident and Loan Building ...continued

This building was completely remodelled in 1946, with the most noticeable change being the relocation of the main entrance from the corner of King and Hughson Streets further east on to King Street. In preparation for redevelopment, the Canada Trust-Huron & Erie Company extended its property holdings in 1960 by purchasing the Gore Building, which adjoined the trust company's offices to the east. Around 1961 the grand building was demolished.

The building built at 46 King Street East to replace the Hamilton Provident and Loan building was a contemporary three storey office building designed jointly by architects Crang and Boake (Toronto) and Prack & Prack (Hamilton) and constructed in 1962 by Cooper Construction Company for the Canada Trust Company (previously Huron and Erie Mortgage Company). When the building opened on January 15, 1963, it contained Hamilton's first underground parking area.



Here is the building as it looked in 2017. It has since been demolished and a new central, main office for Effort Trust is being completed on this corner.