

## Refurbished Belfountain Hall is again open for business

By Bill Rea

It's been talked about for a number of years, but the community hall in Belfountain is back up and operating.

Mayor Allan Thompson was joined last week by are residents, Town staff, councillors and representatives of Caledon OPP reopening the hall at 17204 Old Main St. in Belfountain.

"This is something we're all here to celebrate and recognize," he remarked.

The renovation work has included replacement of the roof, windows and wiring, as well as work on the furnace and washrooms.

The hall was built by the community in 1893 and it always served as a meeting place for the hamlet. The land was acquired from the Belfountain Methodist Church.

The building was raised in 1932, a foundation was installed under it and electricity was put in. A rear addition was put on in 1956, and that included at kitchen and washroom facilities.

It was deeded to the municipality in 1973.

In 2013, some needed work on the building was identified, with other problems soon being noticed.

Thompson also thanked OPP for partnering in the project and setting up a satellite office in the basement of the building.

Facility Manager Tom Darlow observed a lot was needed to get the building ready.

"We've done a lot of work over essentially the last 10 months," he commented, adding there was a lot of help from the Belfountain Heritage Society and the Belfountain Community Organization. He also thanked the neighbours for the work they did.

"They've been a great support for this project," he said.

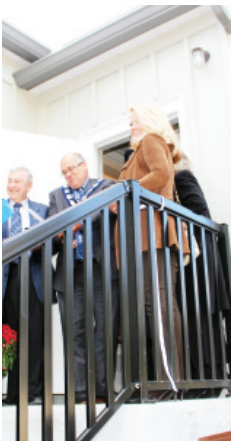
Darlow also expressed thanks to other Town staff, as well as the various contractors who worked on the project.

"I think we've been able to do a great project and we've done it under budget," he declared.

Caledon OPP Inspector Tim Melanson, who was in his last week as commander of the detachment, said two officers are to be assigned to the office to help enhance police presence in the area.

"We love our space downstairs," he said. "It's our pleasure to be part of this."

"We're still missing the OPP Sign," Councillor Barb Shaughnessy quipped.



A large crowd of residents, town officials and representatives of Caledon OPP were out to watch Mayor Allan Thompson officially reopen the community hall in Belfountain.