

# The New Building: New Opportunities for Hamilton Women

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*New YWCA Building Ready For Opening  
– Membership Now Over 1,000 Mark*

**1912:** The second “whirlwind” building campaign used housing as its focus. The YWCA reported that at the present time “we have every room filled. In addition to that, we have cots up in the hallways, in classrooms and other places throughout the building in order to accommodate the girls who come here for board and rooms.” The YWCA was supplying accommodations for 107 boarders whereas the building was only equipped to hold 60. Boarders were often turned away. “We could fill this building up with two hundred girls inside of a week if we had the accommodations.”

**1913:** The YWCA building campaign consisted of an intensive five-day fundraising drive starting December 1, 1913. With \$70,000 already raised, extensive construction would begin on the existing YWCA site. One incident during the campaign eloquently demonstrated the value and support of the YWCA's work.



*A young girl had learned through the newspapers of this effort, and being a girl who has to earn her own living, she recognized the good the YWCA was doing in the city for such girls as she...Her financial position did not allow of her giving money, but she decided to give in kind, if she could come across anything she could sell, and then give the proceeds to the fund... She decided to part with two old plates, which she prized very highly. Unfortunately, one of the plates was accidentally smashed. The unbroken plate was sold at auction...W.J. Waugh was the purchaser for the sum of \$25.00.*

Such events indicate the spirit that accompanied these fundraising campaigns. By supporting the YWCA, the public felt intimately involved in shaping the development of their community.

**1915:** The new YWCA building was formally opened on January 19, 1915 by John S. Hendrie, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The former YWCA building was demolished. A new seven-storey building that housed two hundred rooms was erected. A lengthy and detailed description of the new building was printed in the Hamilton Spectator prior to the official opening.