



# The East End YWCA

The campaign to build the east end YWCA in 1924 stressed the needs of women working in the factories. "As a young girl working all day in a factory, and returning tired at night to a small room in a boarding house, would you not feel the need for recreation and change? Where do they go at night? How do they employ their leisure time? A YWCA branch in this sector of the city would give these young women a place to go in the evenings where an "atmosphere of social activity" would provide a circle of acquaintances for newcomers to the city, alone and friendless. A program in the East End would "extend a welcoming and helping hand to the lonely girl." On February 3, 1925 the East End Branch of the Hamilton YWCA was officially opened, as a "child" of the "mother YWCA."



Senior Girls Annual Banquet

In 1921 the Hamilton YWCA rented a hall located above the Royal Bank at the corner of Barton and Wentworth Streets for industrial clubs/committees. This "very pretty club room" was not ideally located to reach a majority of girls, but it was the best to be found at the time. A pamphlet distributed in 1923 described the Blue Triangle Club as a "gathering place, a place for friends to meet friends and be at home, and a place where friends can be friends." The activities included singing, dancing, dramatics, basket weaving, making gifts and books.

The Blue Triangle Club was, for many of the girls a "home away from home." The site chosen by the industrial committee was on the corner of Main and Ottawa Streets. The rationale behind this decision was that "east of Gage there was no park, and that outside of the churches there was no common gathering centre for recreational or educational purposes."