

The MacNab Street Branch

In response to the rising demand for the YWCA's services, a new home for the association was to be built on 75 MacNab Street. The 'New Building' fundraising campaign banquet opened at the Royal Connaught Hotel and over 1,000 people showed up! There were 20 to 25 fundraising teams of board and community members; that night at the Connaught, teams chose names of potential donors they would go and see. It was a five week campaign; all the canvassers brought the results each week to the meeting, and they kept up the enthusiasm. The campaign raised the three million dollars and the YWCA was able to purchase the former home of Mr. Husband, the architect, on MacNab Street South, an old house similar to Whitehern across the street. At the time, the Hamilton Club was thinking of purchasing it.



Margaret C. Heilig and Ellen L. Fairclough



YWCA Hamilton MacNab Street Location

Ellen Louks Fairclough was the first female member of the Canadian Cabinet; she was elected to the Canadian House of Commons in 1950 representing Hamilton West for the Progressive Conservatives. As a Member of Parliament, she advocated women's rights, including equal pay for equal work. Fairclough played an instrumental role in the erection of Hamilton's new YWCA at the south-east corner of MacNab and Jackson. "This will be a lasting Memorial – dedicated to the women and girls of Hamilton for generations to come. It is the ambition of most men and women that their good deeds live after them. This desire arises not from a wish to have their names remembered, but rather in the gratification of knowing that their influence has made a permanent and positive contribution to the force of good at work in their community." Ellen Fairclough

1969: When the new building was built on MacNab Street, a section of the basement was left unfinished; a staff member at the time suggested suggest the YWCA Hamilton start a senior's centre. There was a senior's club, but they saw the need for something more.

1975-76: The YWCA provided the premises and the Senior's Centre and Health Promotion Centre opened. It has been a great success since the day it opened.