

Market Hall: A Community Space

Welcome to the Preview of the New Market Hall Performing Arts Centre: a celebration of a year of exciting changes and over a century of community engagement.

For over 120 years, the Market Hall has been a Peterborough gathering place. Designed by Architect John Belcher, Market Hall opened its doors in 1890. At that time, the second floor gallery was an indoor market. During the summer months a large outdoor market was located on the eastern side of the building.

For turn of the century Peterborough, Market Hall was a community hub. It was *the* place that people came to share local news and events. It was the cultural centre of the burgeoning city. In the years before the advent of mass communication, Market Hall was where you learned about births and deaths, local happenings and current affairs. Market Hall was where Peterborough shared their stories.

A lot has changed in the years since Market Hall first opened, but some things have remained the same. Market Hall is still a community gathering place. And it is still the place where Peterborough shares its stories – now, however, those stories are told in dance, drama and song.

It is a place where young children get their first taste of live performance and where late-blooming artists, such as “Old Men Dancing” can take to the stage. It is the place where Peterborough performers hone their crafts, and a welcoming venue to return to for successful homecomings.

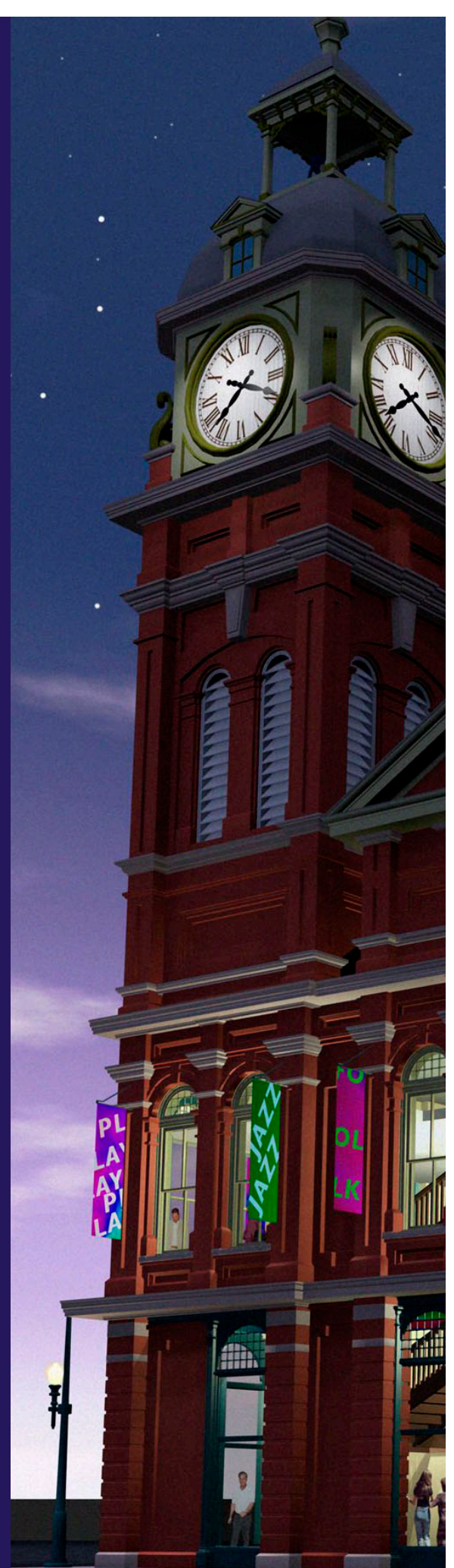
Market Hall has also evolved into much more than its founders could have imagined. Today, it is a versatile performance space, capable of meeting the needs of world-class artists while remaining accessible to local arts and community groups.

This is possible because of the financial support we receive from the greater community, including funds from municipal, provincial and federal government agencies and private philanthropic foundations, corporate entries, private sponsorships, and tax-deductible gifts from individuals.

We are working hard to ensure that Market Hall remains a valuable community space. Through renovations, we have addressed the need for greater patron accessibility and safety. We have improved theatrical componentry. And we have refreshed and renewed the outdoor façade of downtown Peterborough’s most recognizable landmark. World class experts, such as architects, Bill Lett and Ken Trevelyan, and acoustical engineers, Aercoustics, have been brought onboard to usher the Hall into a new century.

The Market Hall renovation began in February 2010 and has just reached its conclusion. As a not for profit charitable organization, we have participated and continue to participate in the fundraising. With a goal of \$1.2 million for the theatre retrofit, we continue to reach out.

The project is a partnership with the City of Peterborough and has received Infrastructure Stimulus Funds from Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments.



The New Market Hall

Contributions from Infrastructure Stimulus Funding and community fundraising have provided for a creative and inspiring setting for emerging talent, an intimate home for touring artists from around the world, and a home for the arts in Peterborough. Makeovers include:

superb acoustical engineering
by Aercoustics

retractable stage for maximum flexibility

multi-use seating
for 50 to 350 people

comfortable new seats
with more legroom and perfect sightlines

new sound and lighting equipment

new entrance
with new passenger elevator

two new balconies
with seating for 24

spacious lobby

sprung dance floor

dressing rooms

backstage elevator

modern heating and cooling system

newly insulated roof