

# MUNRO, William Lawrence

## (1873 – 1929)

**W**illiam Munro was a partner in the firm Munro & Mead a well known architectural firm based in Hamilton, Ontario. Munro registered with the Ontario Association of Architects in 1895.

An Englishman by birth, Munro studied at Oxford University and came to Toronto about 1890. In 1891 when he was 18 he began an apprenticeship with the architect George M. Miller. It was while at Miller's office he met his future partner another apprentice of Miller's, William Mead. He first came to notice when he won second prize for his design, signed "Kata Phusin" for a Competition for a Suburban Cottage. By 1895 he had set up practice at Hamilton and in 1905 began his partnership with W. R. Mead. Munro and his partner were active in western Ontario and designed a number of the area's educational, institutional and residential buildings.

His designs include: the Presbyterian Church at Caledonia (1898); residences for Frank Leeming, Brantford (1901), James Rolstone, Dunnville (1902) and the Rev. Thomas Geoghegan, Hamilton (1902); schools at Beamsville (1902) and Bartonville (1903).

Munro and Mead were also responsible for the House of Industry, Dunnville (1905), the alterations and extensions to the Hamilton Club (1907) and the conversion of several old terrace houses into The Wentworth Hotel, Hamilton (1913).

One of their finest buildings was the Victoria School at Berlin, now Kitchener, a handsomely composed building combining all the characteristics of Edwardian classicism: balanced facades simplified large roofs, smooth brick surfaces and generous fenestration highlighted by stylized and often exaggerated classical elements.

### Important work:

Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, Ont.	1898
Public School, Beamsville, Ont.	1902
House of Industry, Dunnville, Ont.	1905

### *Munro & Mead*

Victoria School, Kitchener, Ont.	1909
High School, Dunnville, Ont.	1910
High School, Whitby, Ont.	1911
Public School, Burlington, Ont.	1912