

## NEWLANDS, William (1853 – 1926)

**A** Kingston architect of distinction and individuality, William Newlands radically changed the architectural landscape of his home town in the late 19th century with his almost flamboyant decorative structures, a reaction no doubt to the earlier solid but somber style of early Kingston.

Newlands was born in Kingston in 1853, the son of a Scottish father who came to Canada about 1830. His father and a number of other family members were masons, builders and contractors and helped shape the look of early Kingston. It was only natural that young William should want to follow in their footsteps. It is likely that he received his earliest training with Joseph Power, Kingston's leading architect of the day. From the earliest surviving drawings of Newlands', it appears he began practicing about 1880. One of his first commissions was the sympathetic addition to the Elizabeth Cottage a charming gothic revival house. His early designs tended to be very picturesque and detailed as evidenced by the Donald Fraser House (1885) and the terrace houses for John Ward (1887). The former was executed in the Italianate, the latter in the Queen Anne Style but both possessed a variety both in detail and materials. In his early works Newlands shied away from stone and

liked to use brick, wood with stone sometimes used as trim. His grandest project in wood was a design about 1890 for a large hotel near Picton in the shingle style but whether it was actually built is not known.

His greatest commissions came at the end of the 1880's as did his conversion to the newest of fashionable styles, Richardson Romanesque. Two large Presbyterian churches, St. Andrew's, and Chalmer's, both in Kingston were designed in this style. His design for Victoria School is also Richardsonian and this style was an important influence on him during the 1890's though he continued to use the Queen Anne Style, and towards the turn of the century, the Colonial Revival. By 1904-1905 when Newlands designed a large house for E. M. Young in Prince Edward County he was designing primarily in the classical style.

Other Kingston buildings by Newlands include the Malone House, Frontenac Street (1887); John McQuade House, Mack Street (1911); John Hazlett cottage (1883) and Dr. Rand's Residence and Surgery, Bagot Street.

Newlands' son John joined his father in 1908-1909 as a draftsman and by 1911 the two had formed a partnership which lasted until Newland died in 1926.

### Important work:

Kingston and Pembroke Railway station, Ontario St., Kingston, Ont.	1885
Victoria School, Union St., Kingston, Ont.	1892
House of Providence, Montreal St., Kingston, Ont.	1891-92
Park Pavilion, MacDonald Park, Kingston, Ont.	1896
House of Refuge, Picton, Ont.	1905
Collegiate Institute, Picton, Ont.	1906
Regiopolis College, Russell St., Kingston, Ont.	1914