

TULLY, Kivas (1820 – 1905)

The Toronto architect Kivas Tully ranks as one of most outstanding practitioners of his profession in 19th century Ontario.

Born in Ireland in 1820, the son of Commander John Tully R. N., Tully's early education took place at the Royal Naval School, Canterwell. He trained with civil engineer W. H. Owen of Limerick and George Wilkinson, architect in Ireland for work-houses for the Poor Law Commissioners. In 1844 he followed his elder brother John, also an architect, to Toronto. He soon established a successful practice as an architect and civil engineer. In 1852 he was appointed engineer to the Toronto Harbour Commission, a position he held until his death. Tully left his private practice in 1868 when he was appointed senior architect and engineer of the Ontario Public Works Department. Here he was responsible for the design and alterations of many of the province's public buildings. He retired from this position in 1898.

Among the many important structures Tully designed were the Customs House, Front and Yonge Street (1845), Queen's Wharf light house (now at Fleet Street and Lakeshore Boulevard (1861), additions to Osgoode Hall, Queen Street West (1883), wings to Central Prison and additions to the Toronto Normal School, all in Toronto; Ottawa Normal School; St. Catherine's Town Hall (1848) Asylums at Orillia, Mimico and London as well as numerous registry offices, jails and residences.

His skill is evident in the surviving documentation of his designs for the "Palladian" style 1845 Bank of Montreal, Front and Yonge, Toronto influenced by Italian renaissance style London Clubs and residences by Sir Charles Barry and the Gothic revival Trinity College, Queen Street West Toronto (1845). This latter design for the Anglican Church was influenced by Tom Tower at Christ Church Oxford and New Court, St. John's College, Cambridge. Goldwin Smith remarked "no place in Canada so forcibly reminds me of Oxford as Trinity". Tully's architectural masterpiece, no doubt is Victoria Hall, Cobourg's municipal building begun in 1857 and opened by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1860. Built in a neo-palladian manner, the architect lavished highly detailed stone carving on three facades of this splendid porticoed structure surmounted by a magnificent cupola containing a clock.

A man of many interests and pursuits, Tully was first President of the Engineer's Club of Toronto, charter member of the Canadian Institute and a delegate to the Deep Water-ways convention held in Toronto in 1894. He also served as a councillor and alderman in Toronto. Married twice, his first wife was Elizabeth Drew. After her death he married Maria, daughter of Col. Samuel Strickland, whose sisters Catherine Parr Traill and Sussanah Moodie were noted Canadian literary figures.

Important work:

Bank of Montreal, Yonge St., Toronto	1845
Town Hall & Market, St. Catharines, Ont.	1848-49
Trinity College, Queen St. W., Toronto	1851
Victoria Hall, Cobourg, Ont.	1856-60
Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville, Ont.	1868-70
Provincial Lunatic Asylum, London, Ont.	1868-70
Asylum for the Insane, Orillia, Ont.	1886-87
Asylum for the Insane, Mimico, West Toronto	1888
Asylum for the Insane, Brockville, Ont.	1892-94