



DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – COMMISSIONER  
TOWN OF NEWMARKET  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

www.newmarket.ca  
info@newmarket.ca  
905.895.5193

February 18, 2014

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES  
INFORMATION REPORT COMMISSIONER 2014-13**

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

SUBJECT: Donation of 1914 Post Office Bell

ORIGIN: Commissioner of Development & Infrastructure Services

---

**COMMENTS**

In November of 2012, Mr. Paul Clubbe contacted the Town with an offer to return the original bronze bell and pine cupola that had hung in the tower of the Post Office on Main Street. In consideration of this offer Mr. Clubbe asked for a charitable receipt. Town staff made arrangements to go out and view the bell at Mr. Clubbe's residence. The bell and cupola were found to be in very good shape.

Staff were able to contact the original bell maker, Gillett & Johnston in England. The manufacturer was actually able to send the original order details for the bell. The order was placed on November 23, 1914, by E.L. Harwood, Chief Architect for the Canadian Public Works Department. They ordered clocks and bells for six locations in Canada. The order for Newmarket was for a clock and dials; and an 800lb bell and hangings. The order, including shipping, was £130 or approximately \$210.00 Canadian. Gillett & Johnston gave a rough replacement estimate for the bell alone (excluding works and shipping) of £9,459 or approximately \$15,000.00 Canadian. A copy of estimate is attached as Appendix A.

In addition to contacting the manufacturer staff obtained an appraisal of the bell from Reid's Antiques in Stouffville. The appraised value came back at between \$18,000.00 and \$20,000.00 excluding all repairs, shipping, handling or installations. A copy of Mr. Reid's appraisal is attached to this report as Appendix B.

In light of the estimate from the manufacturer and the appraisal, the Town has issued a charitable tax receipt to Mr. Clubbe in the amount of \$20,000. Arrangements are now being made for staff to pick up the bell and cupola. For the time being the bell will be stored at the Operations Centre.

The Town is pleased to have this nearly 100 year old artifact returned to the Town in such good shape. Decisions on the ultimate disposition of the bell and cupola can now be determined at an appropriate time.

**BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**

Ensuring the preservation of Newmarket's heritage for future generations to enjoy.

**HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable to this report.



**BUDGET IMPACT**

Operating Budget (Current and Future)

Retrieval of the bell and cupola will be undertaken by Town staff in the spring prior to the start of summer operations.

Capital Budget

Currently there is no impact on the Capital Budget.

**CONTACT**

For more information on this report, contact: Wendi Mercer, Administrative Services Coordinator at 905-895-5193, extension 2511.



---

R. Prentice,  
Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services

\_\_\_\_\_: wm

Appendix A



**The Old Post Office Bell, Newmarket**

**Quote for new Bell**

**Estimate Ref: E51527**

As requested by Wendi Mercer in her email dated 18th Dec 2012 below is a quote for a new bell similar size to the Old Post Office Bell that hang in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada which we supplied in 1914.

**1) Bell**

To supplying a newly cast bell measuring 34" dia at the lip and 27.3/8" high sounding the note A# and weighing 8-40 lbs.

The below price does not include headstock, fixings or installation.

**For the sum of ..... £9,459 (ex works)**

**2) Ancillary Items**

We have not costed the freight charges to Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

In addition, due to the weight of the bell air freight may not be a practicable means of transport although this will depend on the time scale involved.

We hope the above is acceptable and should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Steve Coombes  
Managing Director

**Gillett & Johnston (Croydon) Ltd**

Unit 1 The Friesian Building Brewersstreet Dairy Business Park, Betchingley, Surrey RH1 4QP. Tel: 01883 740000 Fax: 01883 742502  
Email: [sales@gillettjohnston.co.uk](mailto:sales@gillettjohnston.co.uk) Website: [www.gillettjohnston.co.uk](http://www.gillettjohnston.co.uk) Registered in England No.557325 VAT No: 217 9575 33

Appendix B

---

Summary Appraisal Report  
For

Town of Newmarket  
395 Muloch Drive  
Newmarket, ON  
L3Y 4X7

Prepared by  
Robert Reid  
Reid's Antiques  
6397 Main St.  
Stouffville, Ont.  
905-642-9864

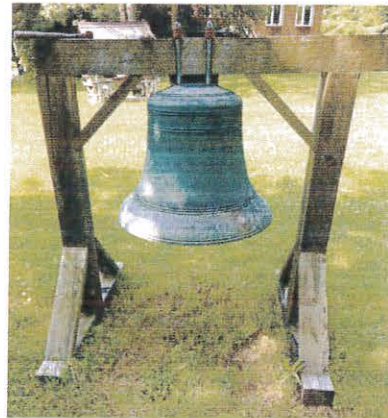
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

As requested I conducted an inspection of a bronze bell at the property of Paul Clubbe, 14402 Kennedy Rd. Stouffville on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

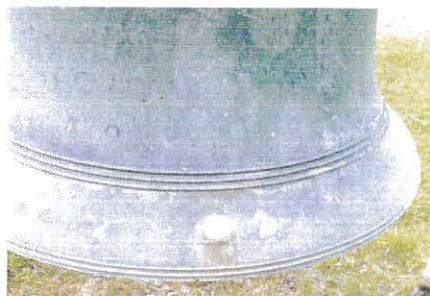
This bell was originally purchased for and hung, in the Post Office in the Town of Newmarket. The bell stands approximately 28 inches high with an upper circumference of 20 inches and a lower circumference of 36 inches.

It is made of bronze and was cast by the foundry Gillett and Johnston of Craydon, England in 1915. It weighs approximately 800 pounds.

It is presently supported in a hand hewn pine cupola that is assembled strictly with tension fittings.



The bell is in reasonable condition with general age and use wearing. This includes visible striker marks to one side and barely visible engravings, perhaps of a commemorative nature, above the striker marks. The bell is missing any type of clapper or striking device.



The company Gillett and Johnston is still in business and has provided a replacement value excluding shipping and handling of £9,500. At today's (June 21<sup>st</sup>. 2013) exchange rate of 1.612777 this equals \$15321.31 CAD.

Taking into consideration the historical value of this bell and the original cupola framework it is reasonable to assess a replacement value in today's market in the greater Toronto region as being between \$18,000.00 and \$20,000.00 CAD excluding all repairs, shipping, handling or installations necessary for public display.



Prepared by R. Reid, Reid's Antiques