

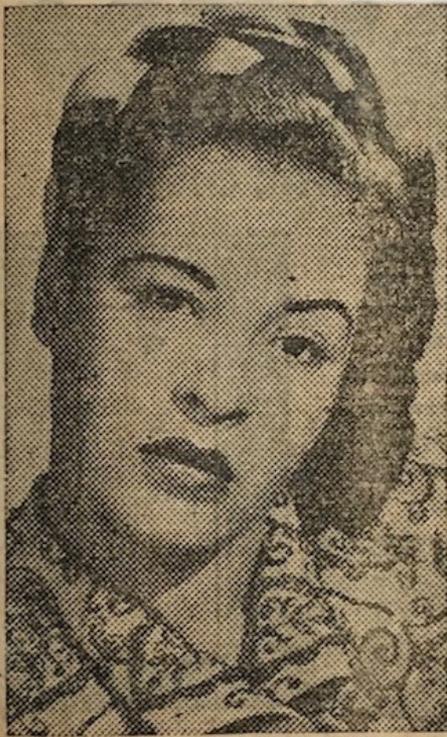
**HISTORIC  
HANRAHAN'S**

Hamilton Municipal  
Heritage  
Committee — Nov.  
21, 2019

Dr. Sarah Sheehan



**HOTEL HANRAHAN**



BILLIE HOLIDAY

**FRIDAY and  
SATURDAY only**

AT THE NEW

**SPORTSMAN**

★

**Billie  
Holiday**

Distinguished Singing Star  
In Person

★

Don't Miss This Vibrant  
Personality

**Hanrahan Tavern**

**Barton and Catharine Streets**

When the legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday came to Hamilton, she would stay with Jackie Washington's family, and play at Hanrahan's Tavern.



Hanrahan's Tavern, captured here by Hamilton photographer Brian Henley.

Note the wonderful old neon sign — so typical of restored buildings along Barton Street.



Canadian rock icons The Tragically Hip played an early show at Hanrahan's, in 1985 — the same year the band formed.

*Borger*

Downie and Sinclair synchronize in hip style.

“One of the leading and first class hotels of Hamilton... The building is a handsome three-storey brick structure which has just recently been completed and which possesses every modern and up-to-date improvement. There are about thirty well-lighted and spacious rooms, furnished in a most tasteful manner... The place is a very popular one and a large patronage is continually enjoyed.”

—*Hamilton Herald*, 1908





“He was one of our best hotel men and he will be greatly missed. He always kept a first class hotel.”

—*from Thomas A. Hanrahan’s obituary, 1915*



Another resident and family notable: Judge J. Arthur Hanrahan, the founder's youngest son.

Arthur was self-educated due to illness. A visiting Grand Trunk Railway executive to the hotel inspired him to become a speed-typing champion. (In 1920 he once maintained a record-breaking typing speed for six hours.)

In 1957 he became the only Canadian on the new UAW Public Review Board.

“The worst scenario is that the landmark — on the city’s inventory of historical buildings, but not protected — gets knocked down, the development doesn’t happen, and Hamilton gets another parking lot.”

—Paul Wilson, *The Spec*, Sept. 2019



John Barton Investments wants to demolish this historic, Edwardian hotel to build a new commercial building.

The current vacancy rate for commercial real estate in Hamilton is currently around 25 - 30%.





Toronto's Broadview Hotel was built as a Victorian commercial block. For many years it was known as Jilly's—like Hanrahan's, a grandfathered strip club.



The Jilly's building after adaptive re-use and restoration by ERA Architects and Streetcar Developments. Dingman Hall is now the popular and beautiful Broadview Hotel.



# LANDMARKS,

# NOT LANDFILL

National Trust for Canada @nationaltrustca · Sep 27

Hey heritage advocates: Are you up for the #GlobalClimateStrike? 🌍

When we promote #adaptive reuse and fight #demolition we are climate activists! Heritage conservation and traditional practices are critical to a sustainable future 🌱

#climateheritage #landmarksnotlandfill

Greta Thunberg, ClimateHeritage and Natalie Bull



↻ 22

❤️ 48





Hanrahans Hotel Design Concept

November 18, 2019

Thank you.