

Historic Tower Gets Much-Needed Attention



Prospect Tower

Preserve Lawson Landmarks Steering Committee:
Front row (l to r): Robin Kostelnik, Henry Pearsall,
David Cullen (chair). Back Row (l to r): Karen
Mittelstadt, Kathy Cullen, Amber Klein, Gail Kimen,
Amy Kimen. Not Pictured: Kate and Tim Flannery.

Judson Tower gets a lot of press, but Victor and Jessie Lawson built five impressive smaller water towers around the property too: Builders, Guild, Heifer, Prospect and Teen. Each was filled with water from its own well for dusty roads, plants and gardens.

Folklore states that Jessie built these towers where her thirsty donkey Cadichon balked in the road. (She got him from a circus in Europe - he pulled her around the grounds in a cart on her inspection tours.) Of course Cadichon helped himself to workers' sack lunches. When that happened, the workers were treated to a home-cooked supper. Cadichon was most certainly encouraged to eat lunches he encountered . . .

Testament to the Lawson's careful work is that over 100 years later, the towers are still here adding charm to the property. Each tower can be climbed for a scenic vista. But after 100 years they don't look as nice as they could, and some areas in the towers are severely deteriorated.

In summer 2022, thanks to donations and the hard work of the group Preserve Lawson Landmarks, Prospect Tower's roof was repaired, the stone was cleaned, and concrete work and drainage of the walls and deck surfaces were improved.



Prospect Tower

BEFORE



AFTER!

Dead trees, weeds and overgrowth were removed to enhance the landscape around the tower. The results are stunning.

The other towers need attention too. The success of the Prospect Tower project will hopefully inspire their renovation so that they can be enjoyed for another 100 years, perhaps with a cold drink of water and sandwich lunch, the kind Cadichon liked. Cost to repair varies from \$1,000-\$100,000 depending on how much work is being done and what the paid to volunteer ratio is.