



LaHave/Doran's Hotel

After the Eureka Hotel burned down in the Great Fire of 1899, it was rebuilt on Pleasant Street, across from the homes of George H. Burkett and Judge DesBrisay. Dubbed the "New Eureka", it was only known as Doran's Hotel after its operators. Known later as the LaHave Hotel, it was a member of the now-decimated group of hotels in the Pleasant Street area, including Clark's Hotel in the Pleasant Rest Home building, The Fairview Hotel on Queen Street, directly behind Clark's, as well as one at 12 Phoenix Street, around the corner from Pleasant Street. It burned down in 1965, and was eventually replaced by a lovely Brutalist building which fronted the street with a parking garage. This was to become the school board building in Bridgewater, later going to the Town of Bridgewater, and finally being converted to apartment buildings.

The building itself, erected in the aftermath of the devastating fire, best expresses the style of architecture known as Victorian Plain. Square and boxy, the details were subtle – in this case, a frieze (wide moulding) beneath the prominent cornice, and small peaked hood mouldings over the windows of the lower storeys. This view, seen from down below it, looking up at Pleasant Street, also offers a clear view of the large balcony and the three-window-wide bay window, each supported by an interesting

design of brackets. These, though for once serving a structural purpose, manage to seem stylish as well with their unique shape.

From *Bridgewater Hotels*, *Eureka Hotel*, *Doran's Hotel* reference files, and the 1906, 1924, and 1955 town insurance maps.