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HISTORY OF DROMORE HALL (CONTINUED)

In 1944, the Dromore Women's Institute purchased the Hall and its lot from Robert Taylor and renamed it THE DROMORE INSTITUTE HALL. In the years following, the men of the community lowered the roof, doing away with the upstairs and the stairs leading up to it and braces were put in to hold the walls more firmly. A good hardwood floor was laid in the early 50's and drains were dug away from the basement which filled up with water every spring and a cement wall was installed around the basement. To pay for this, the Women's Institute held dances and catered to agricultural banquets, weddings etc. Bridal showers for local girls were held in the Hall without rent being paid. There was always splendid co-operation between the church Ladies' Aid and the Institute ladies in regard to dishes and other kitchen articles.

In 1958, the Taylor house beside the Hall was burnt and the Hall was badly damaged as there was only a few feet between the two buildings. The Durham Firemen were unable to get their pumper to work from lack of water and various neighbours and those who were at the Garage, the Mill or the Store ran to help save the Hall furnishings. The Dundalk Firemen arrived and managed to save the Hall. The furnishings were then carried back in. However the Institute ladies, nothing daunted, under the leadership of Grace Eccles, then president, set to work to repair the Hall and a kitchen was built on the front and painting was done and soon the Hall looked the best it ever had.

After Watra Resort started to function, most of the wedding receptions and presentations went there and the Hall was used only for a few meetings, dessert euchres, the annual At Home and the annual Hallowe'en party. Time and changing social conditions led to the deterioration of the old Hall and after many committee meetings and community surveys, it was decided that the Hall could not be viable without the spending of a great deal of work, interest and money which all seemed to be lacking.

The furnishings were auctioned off at the farm sale of Leonard and Mary Eccles on March 30, 1991, and on June 24, 1991, the Hall was demolished by Bye Construction of Mount Forest and the lot went back to the farm from which it was taken, now owned by John Milne. The last At Home was held there on Nov.18, 1989, and the last Hallowe'en party in 1990.