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The old Firehall was an imposing structure in downtown Stratford. Built in 1897, it was located at the corner of Albert and Waterloo Streets across from the Armory. Maybe, the most impressive feature of the building was the tower which housed the bell and was used for drying hoses. When the bell sounded, the firefighters would jump into boots and coats and run out to emergencies with incredible speed. The firehall bell also pealed the start of the school day and the 9pm curfew for children.