



1989:Maple Grove School under review

Jim Quantrell, At A Glance

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Cambridge archivist Jim Quantrell takes our readers back for a glance at events which occurred 10, 15 and 20 years ago.

EVENTS FROM 20 YEARS AGO *Fourth week of July 1989*

The city was about to open its “northern frontier”. In a recently finalized deal the city purchased 185 acres from the province for \$4.4 million. The lands, bounded by Fountain Streets and Maple Grove Road, were to become the new Cambridge Industrial Park. The central location of the new industrial park within what was identified as Canada's Technology Triangle made the industrial park advantageous not just for Cambridge but also for Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph. The city anticipated little difficulty in selling the lots in the park. City staff already had on file 30 letters of intent to build on the newly acquired land.

It looked as if the long history of Maple Grove School might be coming to an end. The Waterloo County Board of Education was planning a review of the then 139-year-old public school to determine if it should remain open. Maple Grove School was, at the time, a Grade 2 to Grade 6 school with an enrollment of 92 students. It was expected that a large number of students would transfer to the new school soon to open in Silver Heights, significantly diminishing Maple Grove's population.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO *Fourth week of July 1994*

After a month of sifting through the available information community groups were to get their chance to speak regarding the future of the Galt Arena. The previous month, user groups had been informed of the pros and cons of five alternatives proposed for the old arena. They were also informed that it would be years before the city could afford to build a seventh arena to accommodate demands for ice time. At the same time the city's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee were looking at the possible designation of the



arena as a local heritage site. The structure qualified under four of a possible eleven categories. A building had to qualify under only two categories for designation. Between 1,000 and 1,500 former Preston High School students were expected to be in town to celebrate the school's 60th anniversary.

EVENTS FROM 20 YEARS AGO *Fourth week of July 1999*

Plans for Cambridge Centre on Hespeler Road called for the shopping centre to grow to a 500,000-square-foot regional shopping centre by 2000. Included in the expansion plans was an NHL-sized skating rink. That same idea had been considered a few years earlier when Cadillac-Fairview was going to build its own Cambridge Centre on its lands sandwiched between Pinebush Road and Highway 401 east of Hespeler Road. Initial plans for the new rink called for the installation of retractable seating to accommodate between 1,000 and 1,500 spectators. Although the intention was to maintain year round skating at the shopping centre the possibility remained that the facility could be booked as a convention/trade centre.

The saga of the former Grandview School was in its final stages as the city's architectural conservation advisory committee agreed to a compromise plan by which the neglected and vandalized buildings of the former training school would be demolished. In return the committee asked that key architectural elements of the former administration building be incorporated into plans for the recreation centre of the new housing development planned for the site. In addition to serving as a detention facility for many years the buildings had been designated as a ship, HMCS Conestoga, in the Canadian Navy and had served as the national training centre for the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (the Wrens) during the Second World War.

Plans to create a new memorial to the memories of Mark Gage and Constable David Nicholson were completed.

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