



1990: Ben Johnson parade's grand marshal

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.

20 YEARS AGO

First week of July 1990

A crowd estimated at 10,000 lined King Street and created pandemonium at the Riverside Park grandstand in an outpouring of affection and support for one of Canada's most controversial figures at the time, sprinter Ben Johnson. Johnson was in town to act as the grand marshal of the Cambridge Canada Day Parade,^o an event organized by Branch 126 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Greeted with applause and calls of encouragement, Johnson was surrounded by supporters seeking autographs and an opportunity to wish him well.

Plans were in place to convert the old Leo the Lion flea market building on Water Street South into a prestigious office building. A proposal submitted to the city by a local developer called for the demolition of the garishly painted cinder block portion of the former factory building nearest Concession Street and the conversion of the original stone building behind it into upscale office space. The only fly in the ointment was the uncertainty of the tenants of the building once it was completed. The city's planning department had some concerns about available parking. If the building was occupied solely by offices the parking available to the project was probably adequate. However, if a restaurant opened in the building parking at the site would not be sufficient. Approval of the project was delayed while additional information was obtained.

15 YEARS AGO

First week of July 1995

The Cambridge Kiwanis Boys' Choir was about to embark on a tour of southern England and Wales that would see the group perform in Canterbury and St. Paul's Cathedrals as well as in Ely, Coventry, Salisbury, Gloucester and Southwell Cathedrals. The choir was also to attend an evensong services at Westminster Abby and a joint evensong given by the King's and St. John's College Choirs. The trip had been two years in the planning and was to be hosted by the Welwyn Kiwanis Club.

10 YEARS AGO

First week of July 2000

Following weeks of threatening to go it alone, Cambridge council opted to join other municipalities across Waterloo Region in its bid to make the two-tier system of government that was in already in place work better. The move to make the existing system work better was not considered a mere "shuffling of the deck" but rather practical methods for meeting the province's objectives of applying best practices and other efficiencies. Both Cambridge and Waterloo had adopted the recommendations coming out of an all-council discussion for a modified two-tier system. Kitchener had rejected the package and was still holding out for a super-city model.

Jim Quantrell, archivist
City of Cambridge Archives
46 Dickson St. Cambridge (519) 740-4680 ext. 4610
quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca

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