

Butler Metal Products, a company that employed 700 people in Cambridge and Delhi, Ontario, was sold for \$34-million to a group of five senior plant managers and the Quebec Equity Capital Corporation. The buy-out was expected to have no effect on employment or the operation of either the Cambridge or Delhi plants. Butler was a leading manufacturer and assembler of stamped metal products, especially for the auto industry. For the year ended December 31, 1988 the company had lost \$4.4-million before taxes and interest and had a book value of \$46-million. The loss had been attributed to movement in the currency exchange rate and the purchase of automated manufacturing equipment for the factory.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Corporation officially opened its new plant in Cambridge. The plant, then thought to be huge covering an area equivalent to 17 football fields, rolled out the red carpet for the press, a string of company officials and their families, and the general public during a four-day grand opening celebration. The company had produced 4,600 cars since production started the previous November – one car about every four minutes. The goal was for the company's 1,000 employees working two shifts to produce 50,000 cars per year.

Cambridge Winter Hawks right-winger Kirk Maltby, now a member of the Detroit Red Wings and recently named to the 2004 Canadian World Cup Hockey Team, was drafted by the Jr. "A" Guelph Platers in the fourth round of the midget draft. The 16-year-old forward was the 54<sup>th</sup> pick overall and the only right-winger picked by the Platers in the draft.

15 years ago – 1994

The local housing market was showing a continued improvement over the figures for the previous year. Year-to-date figures indicated that city realtors had sold 619 homes in the city, up from the 452 homes sold during the first four months of 1993. The average value of the homes had also increased and sat at \$135,900, up from the \$132,900 average price of the previous year.

The City of Cambridge was to continue its efforts to eliminate pesticide spraying on city property as city council accepted the final report of the pesticide task force review. Three years previously city officials implemented the Integrated Pest Management Program that had become the focal point of the recent six-month review. Although pesticide spraying had been greatly reduced it had not been totally eliminated. Of the 400 acres under the care of city staff only 60 acres had been subject to spraying. City staff could not guarantee that public lands would never be sprayed in the future. Spraying was still reserved as a measure of last resort when all other methods failed.

10 years ago – 1999

Cambridge Tourism launched the Grand River Express, a new horse-drawn trolley service that directly connected points of interest in the old Galt core. For the price of one looney per adult a family could catch a ride from Southworks Factory Outlet Mall and leisurely make their way to the Cambridge Farmers' Market then on to the Adventures on the Grand kiosk at the old Dickson Mill, more recently the Riverbank Steakhouse, across the river and back along Grand Avenue to Southworks. The trolley, a replica of a San Francisco trolley car, was pulled by two large draft horses and could carry up to 22 passengers on its 45-minute journey. The trolley service was formulated by Cambridge Tourism but was developed as a pilot project hoping to attract a private investor to continue the venture as a commercial operation. The trolley operated on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm until September 11.

Cambridge's D3artWorks Inc. announced that funding was now in place to allow them to go ahead with the creation of large-scale, self-contained larger than life paintings to go on the west wall of the Galt Arena. The paintings were to include the images of former Detroit Red Wings great Gordie Howe and present day Detroit Red Wings and former Cambridge Winter Hawks player Kirk Maltby. Both players had fond memories of the arena. Howe was a member of the Galt Jr. Red Wings during the mid-1940's while Maltby played for the Winter Hawks in the late 1980's. A third painting was to feature the 1960's-1970's era Galt Hornets and their Allan Cup wins.

Displaced from their school since November students from Cambridge's French language high school were to have a new school to call their own in the fall of 2000. The new Ecole Secondaire Pere Rene-de-Galinee was to be built on Maple Grove Road and was to open in time for the 2000/2001 school year. The new school was to accommodate 450 students who were displaced from their former site by mould problems in the classrooms.