



1988: CMH investigated

Jim Quantrell, At A Glance

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Cambridge archivist Jim Quantrell takes our readers back for a glance at events which occurred

EVENTS FROM 20 YEARS AGO

Third week of Dec. 1988

City council objected to a “grocery store/strip mall” development proposed for the downtown core. Joining forces in opposing the new development were members of the downtown Business Improvement Association, who hoped to see a better use of some of the last property available for development in the core. Proponents of the development noted that the proposed site bounded by Main, Harris, Bruce and Wellington streets, had been undeveloped for almost 20 years and the prospects for other developments was dim. Proponents also noted that the proposal was within the requirements of the city’s official plan and zoning bylaw. While conceding that the projects met the minimum standards for the site, opponents of the proposal condemned it as inadequate for the site. In the view of some councillors, the proposed mall was “the absolute minimum that should go on this site. This in not the standard for the downtown area. Why should we accept a minimum standard?”

Cambridge Memorial Hospital was one of 11 Ontario hospitals to be investigated by the Ministry of Health for improperly transferring money into fund raising foundations. A spokesperson for the hospital denied any impropriety. He affirmed that in 1982 and 1983 the hospital had transferred \$4 million to the foundation. That money was described as funds that had accumulated from earlier capital fundraising projects and that, since that time, no new transfers had been made from the hospital to the foundation. At the same time, the foundation had transferred \$4.2 million to the hospital for approved capital expenditures.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO



Third week of Dec. 1993

A downtown retail landmark was closing its doors after 49 years in business in the core. The Grant and Blackwell store on Water Street North was closing its doors for good with a sell-off of its comp \$ 500,000 inventory. The company was started by Stan Grant and Harold Blackwell in 1944. The present owner, Ross Grant, cited a long-term downward spiral in business, a changing retail market and too many late nights as reasons for closing the store. Following the closure, he was going to concentrate on his sofa specialty business in Kitchener.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Third week of Dec. 1998

Cambridge MPP Gerry Martiniuk took the search for doctors a step closer when he introduced a private member's bill that would give the government greater authority over the distribution of family physicians. If passed, the legislation would allow the government to enter into agreements with medical students and subsidize tuitions in exchange for service in underserved areas. Cambridge was one of many growing communities experiencing a doctor shortage. Despite being designated by the province as an underserved area and having a local task force recruiting new doctors, Cambridge was still in desperate need of doctors.

Cambridge Memorial Hospital received a Christmas gift worth \$3.3 million from the province. Half the funding was for patient care, while the rest was to be used to ensure medical equipment was year 2000 (Y2K) compliant.

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