



## 1988: Saying goodbye to Hespeler Arena

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

Third week of Oct. 1988

Visitors came not only from Cambridge and the surrounding area, but also from Detroit, Windsor, northern Ontario and Vancouver, to bid farewell to the Hespeler Memorial Arena on Queen Street. An unsafe roof had doomed the 41-year-old structure to the wrecker's ball but before it fell many people who had "had a lot of fun" in the arena returned to town for one last visit to the old ice rink. Displays of photographs, newspaper clippings, plaques and banners were the highlights of an afternoon open house. Bands entertained the dozens of people who strolled through the arena while visitors signed sheets of Plexiglas that were to be installed in the new Hespeler arena to be built on Ellis Road.

Jostling in the Cambridge mayoralty race in the municipal elections increased somewhat with the entry of newcomer Leonard Baxter into the fray. Baxter had been living in the city for only a couple of years but had been a councillor on the Lachine, Que., council for 10 years. In announcing his decision to run against Cambridge councillors Jane Brewer and Bill Woods for the mayor's office, Baxter noted that traffic congestion, affordable housing for young working couples as well as water quality and cost repercussions of the artificial recharge system were among his concerns.

### EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

Third week of Oct. 1993

A federal election campaign was underway and there were a number of pollsters who were suggesting that Prime Minister Kim Campbell's Progressive Conservative Party was headed for a fourth-place finish behind

the Liberals, Reformers and the Bloc Quebecois. Locally the Reform and Liberal candidates were running hard to unseat Tory incumbent Pat Sobeski. External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty was in town to bolster Sobeski's campaign for re-election while Newfoundland premier Clyde Wells was scheduled to speak locally in support of Liberal candidate Janko Peric. Reform leader Preston Manning also visited the city to give added strength to Reg Petersen's bid to unseat Mr. Sobeski.

#### EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Third week of Oct. 1998

The Cambridge Santa Claus Parade was to be held in one of the downtown cores for the last time. The parade committee was moving the popular event to Hespeler Road but it would crawl through the downtown one last time.

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