



1988: Sobeski to Ottawa

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

First week of Dec. 1988

The Cambridge Memorial Hospital had submitted a financial recovery plan to the provincial government three months previously but still the Health Ministry had not informed local officials whether or not the plan had been accepted. The plan was a four-year budget designed to ease a \$3-million deficit that had been projected for the 1988-89 fiscal year. Hospital officials had stated that they could save \$107,000 per year by eliminating its outpatient lab services.

Local Progressive Conservative candidate Pat Sobeski won the right to represent the Cambridge riding in the federal Parliament following a resounding nationwide victory by the Tories. Sobeski was one of 170 Tories sent to Ottawa to govern the country for the next few years. He won despite serious local opposition in the area to the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. Sobeski benefited from a split opposition vote that saw the Liberal and New Democratic candidates split almost 28,000 votes compared to Sobeski's winning total of 20,585 votes.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

First week of Dec. 1993

It was reported that the then 71-year-old Galt Arena had just about reached the end of a long and illustrious life as a functional building and city officials were looking at what to do next. The demand for ice time by recreation groups in the city was too high to allow officials to simply close the building, so some other solution



had to be found. A recent consultant's report on the building provided four possible options. One possibility was for the city to spend \$1-million on a major "facelift" that would keep the building operational for another 10 years. Alternately, the city could spend \$4-million to gut the interior and install an Olympic-sized ice surface, eight new dressing rooms and seating for 450 people. The third option involved spending \$4.4-million over the next 10 years to restore the building to its former glory. Finally, the city could spend \$5.5-million to buy a new site somewhere else in the city and build a new facility.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

First week of Dec. 1998

A Hespeler resident died in a fire following a stand-off with police at his Queen Street home. The incident began when a man armed with a hand gun confronted an employee of a neighbourhood fish and chips shop. Several shots were fired and the suspect left. When police arrived at the suspect's home, a shot-gun blast was heard from inside the home. Police fired tear gas into the house in an attempt to force the occupant out. Shortly after, fire broke out and the house was soon engulfed. The body was removed the next day after it was safe to enter the burned out building.

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