



1989: Silknit project dies

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.

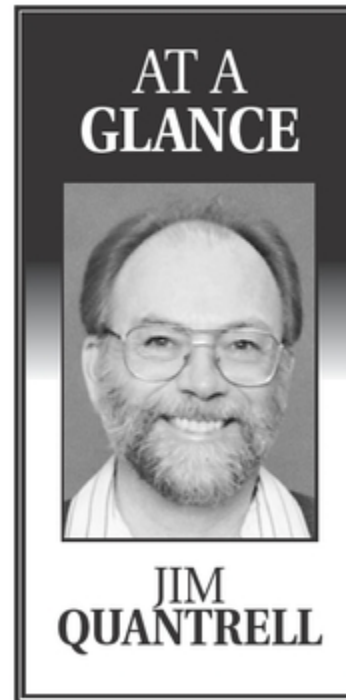
EVENTS FROM 20 YEARS AGO *First week of April 1989*

Once touted as the local “deal of the century”, the Silknit site apartment project was effectively finished. The developer of the proposed 260-unit apartment complex in the former textile mill on Queen Street received permission to demolish his portion of the huge old factory. The section housing Len’s Mill Store and Waterloo Textiles was unaffected by the decision. The original mill building at the rear of the complex was to remain and be converted into 60 apartment units.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO *First week of April 1994*

Cambridge council was looking at how the business of the city was being conducted. At the beginning of its most recent three-year term, council had opted to open itself up to greater access by the public. The results were not all for the best and over the previous year the decorum of council and committee meetings had broken down to the extent that there were reports of councillors pushing each other following meetings. In addition, verbal sniping between councillors was not uncommon, and public delegations were “outspoken” and were accused of being “rude and frustrated”. Among the proposed changes aimed at restoring decorum was a move to channel much of the debate and challenges to the city’s three standing committees. Those committees have since been reorganized into a single Committee of the Whole as a result of the reduction in the size of council. Delegations were given 10 minutes to present their case to the committees. When the issue came forward to council for final consideration delegations were allowed an additional five minutes, but only new information was to be presented.

Wedges ‘NWoods Inc., a St. George company, presented a proposal to build a \$750,000 premiere golf facility on an 18-acre site off Hespeler Road. The facility was to provide a driving range with greens, a



chipping area, green-side sand traps, a natural putting surface, a pro shop, adventure-land mini-golf and a parking lot. What made the project unique was that it was to be built atop a former landfill site.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO *First week of April 1999*

The need for additional funding forced Women's Crisis Services of Cambridge and North Dumfries to sever its ties with the United Way. Officials for Crisis Services noted that, as members of the United Way, they were severely restricted in how much fundraising they could do on their own. A spokesperson further noted that the \$21,000 annual grant from the United Way was far short of the \$100,000 needed from the United Way to meet operational needs. Faced with a shortfall of \$245,000 for 1999-2000, Crisis Services was to embark on an attempt to raise \$160,000 through various campaigns.

Women who gave birth at Cambridge Memorial Hospital were soon to have the option of staying in the hospital for up to 60 hours. New funding announced by the province would allow the hospital to increase its length of stay from 24 hours to 60 hours for a normal birth.

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