



## 1990: 1,500-year-old woman found

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.*

### 20 YEARS AGO - Third week of July 1990

A local group's dream of building a youth centre in the city drew a step closer when city council agreed to sell to them a 1.2-acre site in the International Village on Dunbar Road across from the John Galt Mall, now the Cambridge Centre. The new counselling and drop-in centre would be able to accommodate 300 to 350 young people while they played pool, video games, darts and participated in other activities. The sponsoring group for the project was made up of officials from various local churches that now had to raise \$500,000 to complete the project. Approximately \$14,000 was then in place.

The fate of a 1,500-year-old aboriginal woman who was accidentally unearthed during the preliminary grading at a Townline Road building site remained uncertain as local officials awaited a decision from the Ontario Ministry of Consumer Affairs that was needed before she could be reburied. The Six Nations aboriginal people, who were considered the woman's next of kin, decided that she should be reburied away from the development in as natural a setting as possible. Earlier city council had rezoned a small parcel of land in a meadow off Townline Road for a small cemetery where the woman could be reburied. Now the burial now had to wait for the registration of the new burial site as a recognized cemetery. Once it was recognized it could closed immediately following the burial or it could remain open to receive any other aboriginal remains that might be inadvertently disturbed by the city's expansion.

### 15 YEARS AGO - Third week of July 1995

The hot weather was not having a significant impact on the local water supply. The city's reservoirs were reported as full and there were no concerns about the ability of the water system to supply the community's needs. The story a year earlier was far different when the Turnbull reservoir had reached a low of 63 per cent of capacity. regional water officials use the 60 per cent level as a trigger to implement a lawn-watering ban. Water consumption during the June heat wave rose from an average of 30-million gallons per day to between 43 and 46-million gallons daily.

Extreme heat and humidity kept many, particularly seniors and children, away from the most recent edition of the Cambridge Highland Games. Organizers had expected between 10,000 and 15,000 spectators but only about 8,000 people had braved the mercury and humidex levels to take in the games that featured heavy events, Highland dancing competitions and pipe band competitions.

Construction in Cambridge was beginning to make something of a comeback but the residential housing construction market was still very slow. The latest figures showed that 21 homes with a total construction value of \$2 million had been built in June. That compared unfavourably with the 191 homes, having a combined construction value of \$7.9 million that had been built during the same month the previous year.

It was reported that commercial development at Cambridge's power centre surrounding Wal-Mart was going strong. According to information released by city hall 400,000 of the 500,000 square feet of retail space available at the 400- acre site at the corner of Pinebush Road and Highway 401 had already been spoken for and would most likely be built by the end of the year. The largest project was being undertaken by Réno-Dépôt Inc., a division of one of Europe's largest home improvement chains which was installing a new Building Box store. That store became a Rona Home and Garden centre in 2004.

The city announced a new, more "user friendly" plan to resolve parking woes in the three core areas. The strategy considered such things as the parking supply, parking duration, parking signage and communications, enforcement and the economics of various parking systems. A "pay and display" system in use in many other communities was to be introduced into the city along with two-hour parking on secondary streets and for off-street parking.

Careless use of matches was blamed for the fire that resulted in the deaths of a five-year-old boy and his two-and-a-half year-old sister.

**15 YEARS AGO - Third week of July 1995**

It was announced that gymnast Yvonne Tousek, then 20 and "one of gymnastics oldest competitors" was named to Canada's Olympic team for the Sydney, Australia summer games. She had finished third in the all-round competition at the Olympic trials. Another local gymnast, Crystal Gilmore, was selected as an alternate. This was Tousek's second Olympic Games. She had also competed in the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

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