



1993: Peric wins local seat

JIM QUANTRELL, AT A GLANCE

Published on Nov 04, 2008

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 November 1988

It was announced that the former Capitol Theatre building on Water Street South was to be demolished and replaced by a three-storey commercial/residential development. At a closed meeting Cambridge council had agreed to allow Simcoe-Fox Developers Ltd., a Toronto-based firm, to raze the theatre, once described by local heritage architectural authorities as a "rare art deco building". Unfortunately much of what had made the building unique in the city had now disappeared and it was no longer considered worth saving. The building to be erected in place of the old theatre was a complex that was to house retail space on the ground floor, commercial and office space on the second floor and four apartment units on the third floor. The theatre building and property had been acquired by the city from Famous Players for \$150,000 the previous year and was to be sold to Simcoe-Fox for the same price.

The mall on Main Street was about to change hands. Marathon Realty Co. Ltd. of Toronto was about to hand over the deed to the downtown shopping mall to Toronto developer Leslie Krakovits. The property reportedly sold for over \$3 million. Krakovits said that he planned to rejuvenate the "tired" 70,000-square-foot mall. In recent times the merchants of the shopping mall had experienced some hard times and in the last few months both the 16,000-square-foot Mr. Grocer food store and Keynote Card Party Shop had closed their doors. The Radio Shack outlet in the mall was reporting slow business but was managing to hold its own. The new owner claimed to have no intention of trying to attract another food store to the mall. Instead he was looking for a hardware store or a small department to fill the 16,000-square-foot anchor slot.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

First week of November 1993

In the federal election the Liberal "red tide" swept the Progressive Conservative Party led by Kim Campbell from power. Locally, Janko Peric, a 44-year-old Croatian-born father of four and full-time welder with Lear Seating Canada, cut through 40 years of alternating Progressive Conservative and New Democratic Party dominance in the area to win the Cambridge seat for the Liberals. He attracted a total of 21,997 votes, more than 3,000 votes better than runnerup Reg Petersen of the Reform Party. Incumbent Pat Sobeski was a distant third with only 9,776 votes.

A new warehouse-style store carrying everything from furniture to bleach and detergent was soon to open its doors in the former Zehrs store in the Home Interiors Promenade. The new Liquidation World store was coming to Cambridge because of the city's central location in one of the country's fastest growing retail markets.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

First week of November 1998

The Christmas season was underway with the opening of the annual Trees of Caring fund raising campaign at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital. The goal for this year was set at \$200,000 and given the success of the program in previous years it seemed highly likely that the goal was within reach.

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