



1994:Hespeler hosts short track worlds

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

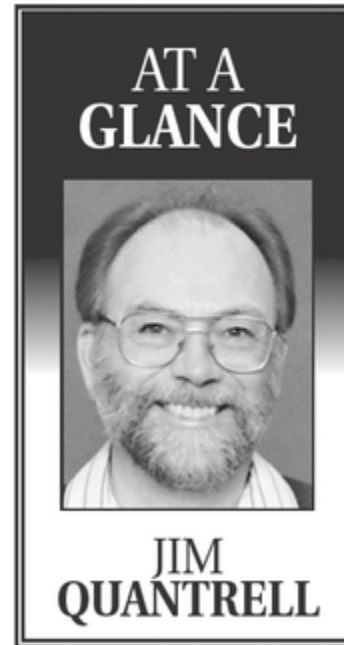
Third week of March 1989

City of Cambridge firefighters wanted wage parity with their brothers in Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph and they were preparing to go to a board of arbitration to get it. The 127 members of the Cambridge Professional Firefighters Association had been without a contract since the beginning of the year and the wage package being offered by the city would still leave the local firefighters behind their counterparts in the surrounding area. A first class firefighter in Kitchener, Waterloo and Guelph received \$42,500 a year while the city was offering local firefighters \$42,005 in a staged payment package.

The Ministry of the Environment was to conduct tests at the site of the Kanmet foundry to determine whether groundwater in the area being contaminated by byproducts produced by Kanmet and earlier manufacturers on the site. The tests were being conducted after the contamination issue was raised by a group of area residents who were requesting that council overturn a committee of adjustment decision to allow Kanmet to sever the lot. Residents feared that an additional industry on the site would double the problems in the mostly residential neighbourhood.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

Third week of March 1994



City council voted to spend an additional \$15,000 to gather further information in its quest to get the Devil's Creek truck sewer line environmental study completed. In a narrow 6-5 vote council agreed to the additional funding that was needed to try to determine the extent of the long-range impact should the sewer line be routed through an environmentally sensitive wetland. The city had already paid consultants \$122,000 to complete the Environmental Study Review for the project. The Grand River Conservation Authority and Ontario's Ministry of National Resources made the request for a further study of a modified alternative.

Noting that putting an apartment building immediately adjacent to an industrial complex was "just opening the floodgates to problems" council finally scuttled plans to build a 260-unit apartment complex at the former Silknet plant in Hespeler. The city had originally sold the old textile plant site to developer John Lammers so that he could pursue a plan to convert the former factory into a large apartment complex. From the start there were many difficult problems to be overcome, not the least of which was the matter of a rail spur line close to the front steps of the proposed project. Within the original development agreement was a requirement that the developer bring forward a rezoning application for the property for the city to consider. At the same time the agreement called for the city to assist the developer in gaining the approvals needed to get the multi-million-dollar project off the ground. Disappointed at council's rejection of the re-zoning application the developer, who had already sunk considerable money into the project, expressed his determination to seek other means to see the project completed.

Cambridge played host to the 1994 World Short Track Team Championships at the Hespeler Memorial Arena just a short time after the completion of the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Most of the world's top short track speed skaters were in attendance with teams from Korea, Canada, Italy, Great Britain, Norway and Japan competing. Cambridge native Derrick Campbell returned home as a member of the Canadian men's relay team. In the eyes of the many of the competitors the fast paced races held before a noisy and supportive crowd of about 1,000 spectators demonstrated what short track could be at its best. To top off an already successful meet the Canadian men's team took the silver medal finished second to Korea while the Canadian women brought home the gold.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Third week of March 1999

Cambridge council had just voted down a motion to accelerate the completion of the Hespeler arena expansion and was now being asked to entertain the possibility of supporting a proposed rink at the Ice Park on Franklin Boulevard that would cater to the needs of minor hockey in the city. If the expansion plans were approved, a junior hockey rink that could accommodate 250-300 spectators would be built at the rear of the Ice Park. The new facility would be entirely self-contained and would operate separately from the Ice Park. While the creation of a new ice surface would seem to be a "motherhood" issue that would receive little in the way of opposition, particularly since it would be built with private funds, there was some concern voiced by some council members about the \$2.5 million project. One councillor was concerned that approval of the project would pre-empt the results of an arena needs study to be conducted in the city.

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