



## 1994:What to do with Galt Arena

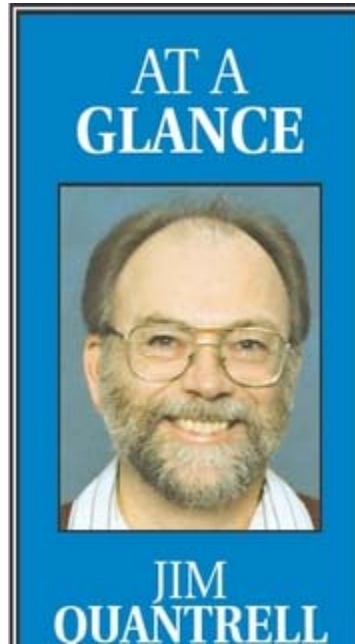
Jim Quantrell, At A Glance

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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 March 1989***

After more than 60 years at the same Main Street location, Law Photography was being forced to relocate. The company had been informally told that they would have to move, but had now received the eviction notice that demanded they vacate the premises within 28 days. That meant that the company had a short time to not only move the photographic equipment, which was the heart and soul of the business, but also the huge “archival” collection of glass plate negatives, proofs and film negatives. Some of which dated from the first decade of the 20th century. The business had not yet found a new location where they could set up shop and while the immediate future was uncertain, it was clear that the business itself would continue.



### **EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO *First week of March 1994***

If the various sports groups that attended a meeting to determine the future of the Galt Arena had their way, the city would build a multi-faceted sports complex that would house a seventh city arena, an Olympic size swimming pool and other sports facilities. While some of those in attendance maintained that the Galt Arena should be upgraded and renovated to the tune of \$4.3 million over 10 years, others maintained that a “facility attractive to business and industry” with seating greater than 1,500 was needed, and that a thorough study of city needs would be required before such a facility was built. Others suggested that plans for a seventh city arena should be set aside until a recreation master plan for the city was complete. It was noted that the city did not have a 50-metre pool and that many prominent Cambridge swimmers had to go elsewhere to train. Those who supported spending the money needed to rejuvenate the Galt Arena noted that while the building was “a dump now, it could be glorious again”.

A “city-wide think tank” was going to be asked to determine where Cambridge should go and how it should get there. The answers that the grass roots group came up with would be used to prepare a new economic development strategy to lead Cambridge into the 21st century. The strategy was to be pulled together over the next several months by a leadership group made up of representatives from diverse local groups, including big and small business and social service providers, along with church, heritage, cultural and environmental groups. The community leaders were to meet with special interest groups and members of the general public in an effort to develop an overall economic strategy that would include not only a vision of the city, s economic future, but also a list of objectives and an action plan to achieve those goals.

#### **EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO *First week of March 1999***

Officials at Cambridge Memorial Hospital had seen no new influenza cases since the previous week and were hoping that the most recent outbreak had run its course. During the two-week period of the outbreak there had been three confirmed cases of the flu among hospital patients along with 14 patients and nine health care workers who were exhibiting symptoms of influenza. In an attempt to control the outbreak, hospital officials had implemented restrictions on visitors and had asked that people with flu-like symptoms not to enter the hospital.

With plans in place for a second ice pad at the Hespeler Arena, an NHL-sized rink planned for the Cambridge Centre and a “junior” ice surface in the works at the Cambridge Ice Park, some people in Cambridge were asking whether the city needed or could support three new arenas. City officials believed that the new ice pad at the Hespeler Arena should satisfy the immediate demand for ice time by user groups in the city but were uncertain of the level of future needs. Three of the cities arenas were nearing the end of their life span.

*Jim Quantrell, archivist*

*City of Cambridge Archives*

*(519) 740-4680 ext. 4610*

[quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca](mailto:quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca)

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