



## 1995: Theatre fends off closure

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 - Second week of April 1990

The Museum Corporation of Cambridge released its long awaited feasibility study for the development of a museum in Cambridge.

The study recommended that the former Babcock and Wilcox factory on Grand Avenue be turned into an \$18-million thematic museum focusing on the relationship between industry and the environment.

The proposed Cambridge Centre of the Environment, Industry and Science would occupy a total of 54,000 square feet and would include a museum, an IMAX circular theatre and an environmental resource centre. In addition to the centre's \$18-million capital costs the project would need about \$2.5 million in start up costs and would run an annual operating deficit of up to \$700,000. According to the study the project would generate up to \$8 million annually in spin-off benefits from tourism and would attract up to 350,000 people to the city each year.

The receivers for the TAG Apparel Group Inc, owners of the Penman's clothing factory in the city announced that the company was to close all four of its manufacturing facilities and its head office.

The move would put 1,250 people out of work including 450 workers at the Savage Drive plant in Cambridge. At the time Penman's was the largest employer among textile manufacturers in Cambridge and was the second local textile business to go out of business within the previous six months.

Artex Woollens in Hespeler had closed the previous December throwing 200 workers out of work.

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation made an offer to purchase Blair's historic Sheave Tower in order to preserve what might have been the last remaining structure of its kind in Canada.

The Foundation had been studying the tower for the previous two years and submitted an offer to purchase the tower and 2.5 acres surrounding it. If the purchase went through the foundation planned to turn the property over to the region's heritage resources department.

That group was thought to be in the best position to ensure that the structure was stabilized to prevent additional deterioration caused by freezing and silt build up and protected from further vandalism.

### 15 YEARS AGO - Second week of April 1995

The Capitol Theatre on Water Street South was given a two-week stay of execution while city staff digested a lengthy report from the city's arts community.

At the end of January the arts community had been given two months to complete a preliminary report concerning the development of an arts and culture centre for Cambridge.

The former movie theatre was one of a number of possible sites under consideration for a proposed community arts centre.

The 38-page report submitted to council by the arts community pointed out the need for an arts and culture centre in the community and felt strongly that the Capitol Theatre building should be given due consideration by the site selection process.

Following nearly a year of negotiations with regulatory bodies, the City of Cambridge was to begin work on a \$475,000 facelift in Soper Park.

The work was to concentrate on improvements to the banks of Mill Creek from the park's eastern bridge to the bridge near the Galt Arena Gardens.

Plans called for crumbling stonework along the creek to be replaced by large boulders and included some bioengineering features for the creek designed to enhance fish habitat and to reduce silt build up.

### **10 YEARS AGO - Second week of April 2000**

The Cambridge Deb Turbos defeated Quebec 3-2 in an exciting final to claim the women's under-22 Canadian ringette championship held in British Columbia.

The championship tournament was anything but a cakewalk. Following two opening victories, the Debs suffered their first defeat of the tournament in a 6-5 overtime loss to Vancouver. Following a 2-1 win against Manitoba the Debs suffered their second one-goal loss this one to Quebec by a 4-3 margin.

The Cambridge team then defeated the team from Edmonton by a score of 4-3 in overtime to reach the semi-final. A victory 7-4 victory over Regina sent the Debs on to the final victory over Quebec.

Cambridge was going to have to build a new road around Breslau to accommodate all the traffic anticipated by development around the Toyota plant. The city was to be responsible for paying half of the upfront costs to develop the Breslau bypass and would be splitting the cost with two residential developers. The region would repay Cambridge's outlay in 2005.

The region had planned to build the new bypass in 2007 and because the city needed the road sooner than anticipated it was on the hook to cover the initial costs. The project carried an anticipated cost of \$8 million to \$9 million.

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