



## 1999: Councillor gets Times scooped

Jim Quantrell, At A Glance

Published on Feb 10, 2009

*Cambridge archivist Jim Quantrell takes our readers back for a glance at events which occurred 10, 15 and 20 years ago.*

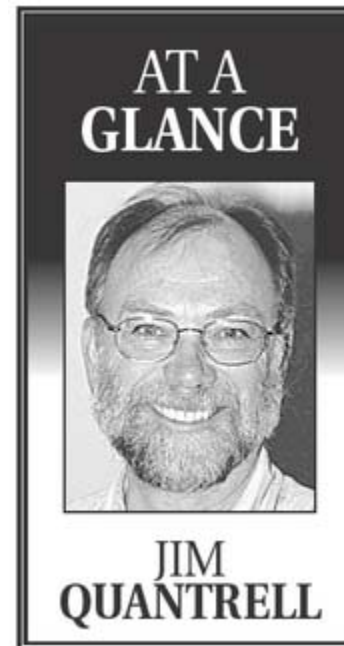
### EVENTS FROM 20 YEARS AGO *Second week of Feb. 1989*

Cambridge was in the midst of one of the largest periods of growth experienced in the last 100 years. The city was literally growing by leaps and bounds as new industry was coming into the city. People were moving up from starter homes and new home buyers were leaving the overheated Toronto real estate market to find what they viewed as “sweetheart” deals in Cambridge. A report from the regional planning department showed that there was barely a corner of the Galt section of the city where a new subdivision wasn't being built, proposed or planned. If all the projects that were on the table went ahead, this section of town alone would see 5,400 new homes, five new schools and six apartment buildings. That would, in turn, provide a population increase of 21,600 people.

### EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO *Second week of Feb. 1994*

It was reported that the Region of Waterloo was to receive more than \$3.5 million from the provincial government for two projects designed to protect and enhance Cambridge's drinking water supply. Of that total, \$1.9-million was to be used to increase the water capacity in east Galt and \$1.6-million was to go toward the \$7.7-million upgrade at the Middleton Street well system and pumping station.

The recent recession appeared to be over, but new home construction in the city was still hurting. According to figures released by the city's planning department, residential construction was down



from the previous year, a year that had also seen building starts sag. In 1993, the city recorded the construction of 574 new homes, 88 fewer than the 662 built in 1992.

#### **EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO *Second week of Feb. 1999***

City council approved the twinning of Hespeler Arena as part of its \$19.1 million capital budget. The move was assisted by a united front from eight user groups who successfully argued the need for the new Olympicsized ice pad. Council ordered city staff to begin work on the project immediately so that the arena would be ready for use in May 2001. There was a suggestion around the council table that perhaps that initial work could be telescoped to allow for an earlier completion date, but senior city staff noted that there were a number of problems inherent with trying to move too quickly.

Editorial staff at the *Cambridge Times* was livid after the paper was “scooped by other media outlets regarding (Steve) Stavro’s interest in offering up his facility (the Knob Hill Farms property at Hespeler and Pinebush Roads) for a future trade centre”. The paper had gotten wind of the proposed offer and was about to publish a story when it was asked by a councillor familiar with the negotiations to hold off on publication until Mr. Stavro had an opportunity to inform his staff of the potential offer. It was also noted that if the story was published too soon, Mr. Stavro would “walk away from the deal”. The paper, “acting in the best interest” of the community, agreed to sit on the story on the understanding that the paper would receive all pertinent information related to the deal prior to anyone else. Unfortunately, that understanding was not passed on to senior city management who, when approached by the Cambridge Reporter, released at least some of the information to that paper. The Reporter published its story on Feb. 2, with the Times following with its own story in its Feb. 3 edition. An attempt by one councillor to elicit an apology from council for the “embarrassing” breach of faith went down to a 9-1 defeat, with at least one councillor noting that it would be more appropriate for individual councillors to step forward to apologize rather than council taking that step.

*Jim Quantrell, archivist*

*City of Cambridge Archives*

46 Dickson St. Cambridge

(519) 740-4680 ext. 4610

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

**CAMBRIDGE**TIMES  
.ca

<http://www.cambridgetimes.ca/opinions/article/162570>

---



© Copyright 2008 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from this Metroland West Media Group website is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

