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## 1988: Racing rubber ducks for festival

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

#### *Fifth week of April 1988*

Details of the Grand River Rubber Ducky Regatta, a fundraiser operated by the music students at Southwood Secondary School, were announced. For the three weeks prior to the June event, Cambridge residents would be able to buy a place in the race of 10,000 yellow rubber ducks. For a \$3 entry fee residents could represented in the race by a numbered rubber duck. The ducks were to be released into the Grand River at Mill Race Park and the first three rubber ducks to pass the buoys set up at the Concession Street bridge won prizes for their sponsors. First prize was a boat and trailer valued at \$2,000, second prize was \$500 and third prize was \$200. The fundraiser was designed to generate funds to offset the costs of sending 110 students to the national high school music festival in Calgary, Alta.

### EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

#### *Fifth week of April 1993*

The Waterloo Region Separate School Board attempted to put pressure on provincial education authorities to provide more equitable funding to separate school boards by launching a campaign to inform the public about funding discrepancies between the public and separate boards. Leaders of the local separate board noted that they were concerned that the then current mechanism for education funding was not working and was "known to be unfair by any one who examines it objectively". At the heart of the debate was the perception that the province funded the public and separate boards equally. That perception, according to the separate board spokesperson, was simply not true. Provincial funding for school boards was based on each board's residential assessment as well as a share of the corporate tax revenue from publicly traded companies. However, because the province based each board's share of the corporate tax revenue on the residential assessment, the separate board claimed that it was being short-changed. The separate board's share of the residential assessment was 22 per cent and thus its share of the corporate tax revenue was set at 22 per cent.

### EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

#### *Fifth week of April 1998*

An official at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital stated that the unbalanced budget that the hospital had recently submitted to the province was unavoidable. The hospital board of directors had passed a budget for 1998-1999 that projected a \$2.2-million deficit in the face of a Ministry of Health guideline that insisted that deficit budgets would not be allowed. Hospital administration contended that the deficit was unavoidable if the hospital was to continue to provide the level of care the community required. The \$52.2- million budget was described as a "status quo" budget with the shortfall resulting from a 15 per cent increase in cancer patients, the cost of renegotiating union contracts and an increase in therapy services for chronic patients.

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