



## 1998: Forests of Caring launched

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 May 1988*

Although it was agreed by all concerned that development of some kind was inevitable on the lands south of Myers Road, residents opposed to the subdivision plans presented by Southview Holdings were relieved when council rejected a plan for a townhouse block on the site. The plan for the subdivision south of Myers Road directly across from Christopher and Woodland Drives included 148 single-family lots, a school block, a storm management block and a multiple dwelling block. The major stumbling block for the more than 20 residents who came to the council meeting and the others they claimed to represent was the location of a block of 28 townhouse units. The opponents were concerned that the quality of the low-income townhouses would not be in keeping with the other housing in the existing neighbourhood. The draft plan placed the block on Myers Road in the northwest corner of the subdivision. Council decided that the block should be moved from there to the southeast corner of the subdivision even though a spokesperson for the developer indicated that the move would result in an additional \$100,000 in development costs that would have to be added to the price of the townhouses.

The local market for upscale housing in the city had dramatically increased. Most of the upscale homes being built at the time were 2,400 square feet or larger. That size of house was not easily accommodated on standard city lots so developers were buying small tracts of land on the city fringes and establishing "estate lot" subdivisions. An estate lot was generally about one acre in size and was totally unserviced. In many cases the purchaser brought in an architect and hired a custom builder to put together a "dream home". Probably the most prominent of the estate developments being put together at the time was the then new Idylwild subdivision developed by Arriscraft Corporation in what was reportedly once a sand and gravel pit. Since the subdivision had first opened the previous year almost half of the 30 lots in the first phase had been sold. Homes in the subdivision were all on lots of at least one acre and ranged in size from between 3,000 and 4,500 square feet and were priced at between \$400,000 and \$600,000.

### EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

#### *First week of May 1993*

It was announced that Groundwater Alert, an independent public interest group formed the previous December because of concerns related to the city's water supply, was to hold its first public meeting. While the group's founders had been meeting regularly to develop a mandate and to map out a course for the future, this meeting was being held to present that mandate to the public and to invite interested citizens to participate in their efforts. The new group was to focus its efforts around the premise that it is "the responsibility of government, industry and the general public to ensure that there be zero production and/or discharge of any persistent, bioaccumulative toxic substances into the environment and if contamination has already occurred, the polluter must pay for the costs of the clean up". The group hoped to put pressure on various levels of government to develop a comprehensive groundwater protection strategy.

Officials for Innovative Steam Technologies, a \$24-million joint venture of Cambridge's Nicolls-Radtke Group and San Diego based Solar Technologies Inc., announced the purchase of the former Komdresco plant on Avenue Road. The 200,000 square-foot factory had been vacant for two years and would require refitting but company officials expected to be in operation by the fall. Innovative Steam Technologies planned to make energy efficient steam products at the Cambridge plant and expected to employ 230 people within five years.

## EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

### *First week of May 1998*

Cambridge Memorial Hospital launched its most ambitious fundraising campaign up to that point. It involved the planting of 2,000 forests to raise \$10-million by the millennium. Called Forests of Caring 2000, the campaign's focus was to beautify the community, help the environment and raise money for the local hospital. For donations of \$20 individuals were to receive native seedlings they could plant themselves or have planted on their behalf. For a \$4,000 gift the donor would receive a mini-forest of approximately 100 plants including trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, vines, ground cover and seeds.

It was reported that the Out of the Cold service that would provide food and shelter to the homeless was to begin operations the following November at Wesley United Church. The service was to operate on Tuesdays to provide guests with a warm bed, supper and breakfast before they left on Wednesday morning. The program was to begin as a six-to-eight week pilot project but it was anticipated that it would continue until the return of warmer weather the following spring.

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