



1988: Speyer won't run for re-election

JIM QUANTRELL, AT A GLANCE

Published on May 13, 2008

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 May 1988

Cambridge MP Chris Speyer announced "to a gasping group of Tories" that he would not be seeking re-election after completing his present term in the federal parliament. Speyer explained that although he had expected to be involved in politics "for an eternity" when he was first elected to parliament nine years earlier he had come to the conclusion that any individual's time in parliament should be limited. It was, he implied, a mistake for anyone to remain there "for an eternity". He claimed that the time of his "interlude" in the house was nearing an end and it was time to select a new representative. He expected to return to the legal profession but had not yet ruled out other opportunities that might present themselves.

The city's recreation staff was working hard to develop a plan that would accommodate the needs of all city arena users after the roof of the Hespeler Arena was declared unsafe under snow and wind load conditions. As a result the arena was to be closed for the 1988-89 season and the users who once had access to six arenas would now have to be accommodated in the city's remaining five arenas. Construction on the new Hespeler Arena was scheduled to begin in the fall and was expected to be available for the 1989-90 season.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

Second week of May 1993

In an effort to recognize, control and eliminate violence in its schools the Waterloo Region Separate School Board started on the road to a "zero tolerance" Safe and Secure Schools Policy. In practice the new policy meant that school principals would now have the full backing of the school board to immediately suspend or expel a student who committed acts of violence in schools. It was noted that violence in the schools had not become rampant but violence was recognized as a growing problem in society and, according to some observers, was a growing problem in schools.

A cut of \$4.3 million in the unconditional grants sent to the city by the province combined with an enforced 5.3 per cent cut in the municipal payroll meant hard times ahead for both municipal officials and city workers. The reduction of funds meant that city officials would have to scramble to find \$4.3 million in savings in the recently approved city budgets. This would almost certainly mean a decrease in city services unless the city dipped into its reserve funds. In addition, municipal workers were worried about their jobs since it was still unclear how the 5.3 per cent wage reduction was to be implemented.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Second week of May 1998

It was announced that St. Patrick Catholic elementary school, the city's oldest, was to close in June and its students sent to nearby St. Anne school. St. Patrick shared the Beverly Street facility with S. Noel Chabanel French elementary school which was moving to a new location in Preston the following September. St. Anne school was to be expanded to include another five or six classrooms and a gymnasium.

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