



1988: Finance controversy heats up at hospital

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

Second week of June 1988

The controversy over the finances of the Cambridge Memorial Hospital was beginning to heat up. Rumours were rampant that the hospital's administrator had or was about to leave the hospital as a result of an unfavourable report tabled by a provincial investigator that laid the blame for the hospital's deficit squarely on the shoulders of decisions made by hospital administration. The rumours were heatedly declared to be untrue. Health minister Eleanor Caplan said that she would send in "the administrative support necessary to operate the hospital in a fiscally responsible way." Cambridge MPP Mike Farnan suggested that the minister would like to send in a provincial supervisor to take over the operations of the hospital to ensure the submission of an acceptable balanced budget. Following the investigator's report the hospital board had submitted a balanced budget but that had been rejected by Health Ministry officials as unworkable. The hospital board was then asked to determine the "sort of management team needed to assist them with the operation of the hospital". In effect the Health Ministry was attempting to have the hospital board cooperate in determining who should be appointed by the ministry to arrange the hospital's budget more to the ministry's liking.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

Second week of June 1993

Construction of the Cambridge Non-Profit Housing Corporation's controversial Anglerock housing project ground to a halt when the corporation fired the contractor. While no details were available, the Brampton contractor was dismissed, according to corporation a spokesperson, "because of certain unacceptable practices". Non-profit corporation officials had received permission from the Ministry of Housing to re-tender the \$3.27 million project and hoped to have the new contractor working on the site by the middle of June. The occupancy date for the building had been set for January 1994 but it was uncertain whether that date could now be met.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Second week of June 1998

Workers were putting the final touches on the Cambridge Cinemas at the Cambridge Centre in anticipation of the official opening later in the week. Included in the opening festivities were a free movie and a concert by the locally raised but Toronto-based duo known as the Wild Strawberries. The new theatre offered advanced ticketing terminals, a cafe, multiple line concession stand, video games, 10 screens that featured stadium seating, high backed chairs and a THS sound system that, according to one writer, "was amplified so I almost came away with injuries."

Jim Quantrell, archivist

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