



1998: Patrol bikes hits city streets

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

Third week of June 1988

Cambridge doctors launched a campaign urging the citizens of Cambridge to stand up for their hospital. The Cambridge Academy of Medicine urged Cambridge citizens to write letters to the Ministry of Health to pressure the ministry into dropping its case against the Cambridge Memorial Hospital. An aim of the doctors' campaign was to make the people of Cambridge aware of the facts surrounding the battle between the hospital and the government.

A group of citizens from throughout the Grand River valley had set in motion the process that was to lead to having the Grand River designated as part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. The project leaders were interested in preserving the cultural heritage and the most outstanding natural landscapes throughout the valley. A study was being conducted to determine whether the Grand River merited heritage status on the basis of: natural characteristics such as geological or biological features; human characteristics such as outstanding archeological or historic features and recreational characteristics such as outstanding value for canoeing or sightseeing. The study was to be completed by the following February with a decision on designation to come in March or April.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

Third week of June 1993

The Galt Arena Gardens was growing old and council was looking at a number of options that would prolong the useful life of the then 71-year-old structure, none of them inexpensive. The least expensive option came in at about \$1 million spread over 10 years and would allow the structure to continue to operate without any significant change for another 10 years. The second option involved enlarging the ice surface to Olympic proportions and reducing seating capacity to 500 at a cost of about \$4 million. The third option would also cost about \$4 million but would maintain the same size ice surface. This option would also introduce new ice making equipment to the building and would involve extensive interior and exterior renovations. A fourth option involved the demolition of the arena and building a new one. This turned out to be the most expensive option coming in at about \$5 million. It would cost \$1.1 million to demolish the arena and another \$3.9 million to build a new facility elsewhere in the city.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Third week of June 1998

It was reported that provincial authorities had recognized two city-owned structures as provincially significant buildings. The plaques honoured the city Historic City Hall on Dickson Street and the Cambridge Arts Theatre, the former First Delta Baptist Church, on Water Street South.

Following some initial delays the controversial downtown bike patrols hit the streets in the three core areas. Seven of the 10 positions on the squad had been filled and recruiting efforts continued to fill the remaining three positions. The new bike patrollers were not to take the place of police on city streets but rather would "act as another set of eyes on the street."

Jim Quantrell, archivist

City of Cambridge Archives

46 Dickson St. Cambridge 740-4680, ext. 4610 quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca

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