



## 1988: Hespeler Furniture to see wrecking ball

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

#### *Fourth week of June 1988*

Support for Cambridge Memorial Hospital continued to grow as city residents got involved in the battle with the Ontario Ministry of Health. Both the Ministerial Association of Cambridge and District and the Cambridge Academy of Medicine added their collective voices to a call for a public inquiry into the actions of the Ministry of Health in their dealings with the hospital. Elsewhere in the city, private citizens were gathering signatures on 15,000 coupons backing the hospital. In addition, 2,162 local residents had clipped "Back the Hospital" coupons from a local newspaper and had forwarded them to MPP Mike Farnan for delivery to Queen's Park.

It was reported that the demolition of the greater part of the former Hespeler Furniture Company factory on King Street at Lowther Street in Preston was soon to begin. The delay from the original February start date was due to the extra paper work and changes in financing required when one partner in the project bought out the other. While much of the existing King Street faade of the old factory was to be demolished, the old grist mill that had been built by Jacob Hespeler in the 1850s was to remain and would be incorporated into the new \$6 million Preston IGA development. It was expected that the top floors of the heritage building would be occupied by businesses while the ground floor was to be dedicated to retail uses.

### EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

#### *Fourth week of June 1993*

Cambridge city council voted unanimously in favour of retaining Galt's ornamental street lights on the city's west side. Regular concrete poles had been suggested as inexpensive replacements for the stylish, time worn cast iron standards that had been installed 70 years earlier. Residents of both east and west Galt objected strenuously to that proposal, as did the city's heritage groups. Following a boisterous meeting at which residents from across the city lent their support to retaining the old-style standards, council agreed that the old worn street lights would be replaced by lamps cast in aluminum from a mould purchased for the city 10 years previously.

No sooner had city officials worked out how to manage the first round of budget cuts to meet a shortfall in provincial grants than Queen's Park announced its new social contract demands. At a special council meeting city officials knocked \$824,000 from the budget before council slashed another \$63,283 to help offset the costs of the proposed social contract. Two days later the city was notified that the social contract was going to cost the city an additional \$1.4 million. It wasn't yet clear if all of that had to come out of the 1993 budget. If it did, the hit would be particularly hard to take since the year was already half over and half of the budget was already spent. Whatever the answer to that question it appeared that when the cuts were all added up at least \$2.25 million had to come out of the 1993 budget. As a result, each city department had to reduce its expenses by between 2 and 3.9 per cent. Hardest hit were the fire department that had to find cuts amounting to \$199,400, and the community services department, where \$205,000 had to be trimmed

from the budget.

## EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

### *Fourth week of June 1998*

The Blair Outdoor Education Centre once again avoided the budget axe. For the second year in a row public school board trustees voted to reject a staff proposal to close the centre and sell off the 22 acres of land surrounding it. Centre supporters declared that the vote demonstrated that the board realized in the end "how much it (the centre) is valued in the community." Others contended that it was the protests of the parents and students that once again convinced trustees to keep the centre open.

Cambridge's Kirk Maltby and the Detroit Red Wings celebrated their second straight Stanley Cup championship following a four game sweep of the Washington Capitals.

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