



1993: First contract reached

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 Aug. 1988

The lawn-watering ban that had been in place since May 30 in Kitchener-Waterloo and since June 20 in Cambridge was finally lifted. Baseball diamonds and other sports fields, wading pools and spray pads were reopened and householders were permitted to water their lawns on alternate days.

Several local corporate citizens had already agreed to donate \$15,000 each to get a definitive answer on whether a large museum/Omnimax theatre complex in Cambridge could work. It was expected that at least one more area corporation would agree to provide an additional \$15,000 toward the \$60,000 museum feasibility study. Council had given the group of private citizens who were undertaking the study until the end of December to produce the report before it made a decision whether or not to proceed with the \$8.5-million project, or to simply relocate and expand archives facilities from the Allan Reuter Centre to City Hall. Council had been prompted to look into various museum options after the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Company donated \$600,000 to the city for the development of a museum two years previously.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO

First week of Aug. 1993

The city's 127 non-unionized employees and the city administration reached the city's first social contract agreement. The agreement made the city eligible for a 20 per cent cut in the \$1.44 million savings goal set for Cambridge by the province. Under the agreement, the non-unionized staff members agreed to take 5.5 days off without pay in each of the next three years. Three of those days were to be taken during Christmas week while two were to be tacked onto the Canada Day and Labour Day weekends. A plan was also struck for the city's 30 public library workers that involved salary reductions and leaving unfilled some library positions that were vacant.

An enthusiastic crowd estimated at between 6,000 and 8,000 spectators thoroughly enjoyed the offerings of the first annual Mill Race Festival of Traditional Folk Music. The format for the local festival was based on the numerous traditional music events presented in the British Isles amid "historically or architecturally significant" villages or towns. The Mill Race festival had been almost a year in the planning. After giving the idea careful considerable consideration, organizers had taken the concept to the Downtown BIA and the city's Community Services Department. The organizers received grants and other monetary support from various sources and the festival idea grew quickly. That first year, all the acts but one were from southern Ontario but each offered a unique perspective on the traditional music theme.

Despite indications that the pumping of regional wells located near the Ciba-Geigy site on Franklin Boulevard was having an impact on the flow of ground water contamination from the plant, the region's water quality supervisor was assuring local citizens that it wasn't necessary to shut them down. Increased monitoring

would ensure the safety of the water from the wells until further testing to discover the rate of flow and the direction of flow of chemical contamination in the ground water could be completed.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

First week of Aug. 1998

Toyota quietly unveiled its latest gem. The new Solara, produced at the company's manufacturing facility, was presented to members of the automotive press at a day long event designed to hype the new car prior to the North American multi-media promotional campaign scheduled for the following month. The vehicle came in four-cylinder and V6 models and was priced at \$26,245 to \$33,800, depending on the selected options. The Cambridge plant planned to build 55,000 Solaras in the first year of operation. As with the Corolla that was also built at the local factory, 75 per cent of the vehicles were destined for the United States.

An agreement was signed between the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and the federal government that made the GRCA the primary agency responsible for the protection of fisheries habitat in the Grand River Valley. The agreement provided for a review process that would be consistent across the entire watershed.

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