



## 1988: First car rolls off line at Toyota plant

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 Dec. 1988***

Tim Drennan was in the early stages of renovating the eyesore on Grand Avenue that had been renamed the McDougall Cottage. After clearing away the vegetation that had for years obscured the cottage from public view, Drennan had set to work re-pointing the home's three chimneys, dismantling the rotten front porch and putting on a new cedar-shingle roof. The home had originally been purchased by Heritage Cambridge, who had planned to refurbish the property and then re-sell it using the profits to purchase and renovate another heritage property. It soon became apparent that it would be simpler for the heritage group to sell the property to an interested third party. Upon purchasing the property, Drennan took on responsibility for a long list of repairs, including cleaning and re-pointing the existing stonework, replacing any rotten wood around the windows, fascia and soffits and reconstructing the front and back porches. Drennan eventually sold the renovated home to the Region of Waterloo, who operates the home as a museum.

Almost two years to the day after Toyota Motor Corporation announced its intention to locate its new Corolla plant in Cambridge, the first Canadian-built car rolled off the assembly line. It was a nautical blue, four-door, 1600 cc Corolla.

### EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO



### ***Second week of Dec. 1993***

Five years after celebrating the first car to roll off the assembly line at its Cambridge factory, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. announced plans to construct a 50,000-square-foot addition to its Fountain Street plant. The \$30-million expansion was to house a new engine assembly operation for 1.6 and 1.8 litre engines for use in the Cambridge-built Corollas. Since beginning production at the local plant, the company had officially produced 290,400 four-door 1.6 litre Toyota Corollas for the North American market.

The city's Contaminated Sites Advisory Committee was to develop new terms of reference and was set to expand from five to 19 members in its new role as the official advisory committee on contaminated sites in the city. One of the first issues to be discussed was the committee's relationship to the city's administration. A round table discussion three months previously had suggested that the committee become an autonomous body distinct from the city administration and report directly to the Ministry of the Environment rather than to city council. The decision to expand the committee's membership had grown out of a perceived need to better inform the public about contaminated sites in the city.

### **EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO**

#### ***Second week of Dec. 1998***

Provincial Minister of Health Elizabeth Witmer announced that the region's four hospitals were to receive millions of dollars in capital funding to carry out the directives of the Health Services Restructuring Commission. Of the \$39.2-million allocated to the region, \$5.7-million was earmarked for expansion of the ambulatory care unit, emergency department and operating rooms at Cambridge Memorial Hospital. The chairperson of the hospital's board of directors noted that the Cambridge allocation fell considerably short of the estimated \$30-million that hospital officials estimated would be needed to fully carry out the commission's directives.

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