



1990: City bails out recycling program

At A Glance-Jim Quantrell

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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.

20 YEARS AGO **Third week of April 1990**

Despite objections from one city councillor, the city's administration committee was asking council to bail out the floundering Cambridge recycling program. The committee passed a recommendation that would give the privately-owned Curbside Separation and Recycling Ltd. almost \$153,000 to enable it to break even on its 1989 fiscal year. The bail out would be a one-time expenditure, since the Region of Waterloo had taken over responsibility for recycling programs early in the year. The company had been hit with staggering losses in 1989 due, in part, to the rapidly shrinking markets for used newsprint and declining rates of subsidy from the provincial government.

Cambridge councillors were angry and frustrated over the Region of Waterloo council's rejection of the city's last minute bid to provide a home for the region's new \$30-million administrative centre. The city had offered to donate land on Maple Grove Road for the project, thus reducing the overall cost of the planned administrative centre. Had the offer been accepted, the new administrative centre would have been built across the road from the regional operations centre and the police headquarters. In rejecting the proposal, councillors from rival communities declared that the proposed site should not be considered since it did not meet the fundamental requirement of being in the core area of one of the region's municipalities. In the course of the two-hour debate in which the issue was discussed, there were frequent bitter exchanges between councillors from rival municipalities.

Faced with tough new regulations governing the spraying of pesticides on public property, the Region of Waterloo was about to stop spraying weed killer along rural regional roads. Instead, crews were to increase mowing and manual weed pulling on roads within the region's jurisdiction.

15 YEARS AGO **Third week of April 1995**

Cambridge doctors closed their offices for routine appointments for the second of 12 days that they would be taking off during the year to meet their financial obligations under the provincial New Democrats' social contract. The social contract, a financial plan designed to reduce the province's costs, required that the province's 24,000 doctors reduce their billings to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. To meet the obligation, doctors withdrew their services for a few days. On those days, some doctors would be available to handle emergencies either in their offices or at the hospital.

Cambridge was to be one of the busiest communities in the country in commemorating the 50th anniversary of VE-Day. In many communities, little or nothing was to be done to mark the anniversary, but Cambridge was to be the site of a variety of activities marking the event, including one of the biggest parades outside of Ottawa to honour war veterans.

10 YEARS AGO **Third week of April 2000**

It was reported that an increasing number of people had turned to the Out of the Cold program for food and shelter the past winter. A spokesperson for the program indicated that 4,000 dinners had been served and shelter had been provided for 1,800 overnight guests. This compared to 1,246 meals served and 250 overnight guests accommodated over the previous winter, the first year of operation. Part of that increase was a direct result of the expansion of the program from a limited operation of three nights a week to a full seven nights a week for at least part of the winter. Out of the Cold operated out of local churches and the program was to

expand further by offering meals at Wesley United Church on Tuesdays throughout the spring and summer.

Legislation was introduced to shrink the number of councillors elected locally from 10 to seven, including the mayor. At the same time, the number of regional councillors was to be reduced from 22 to 16. Overall, the number of municipal politicians in Waterloo Region was to fall from 63 to 49. The legislation was introduced in the provincial legislature and reflected a "locally-directed reform package" put forward the previous year by the Waterloo regional chair and local mayors.

After seven weeks of walking the picket line in bitter cold outside the Hostess Frito-Lay plant on Bishop St., 430 striking workers were going back to work. With an agreement on a new contract, the workers managed to get out from under a demerit system that had been the major bone of contention with management. Instead, the union and management came to terms on a "continental" work week that attempted to strike a balance between the company's requirements to have all the workers it needed in the plant during peak production periods and the union's need to shield the workers from lost hours of work during slower times at the plant.

The Cambridge intermediate A Rivulettes women's hockey team captured the provincial championship in a tournament held in Mississauga.

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