



1989: New player in abortion issue

JIM QUANTRELL, AT A GLANCE

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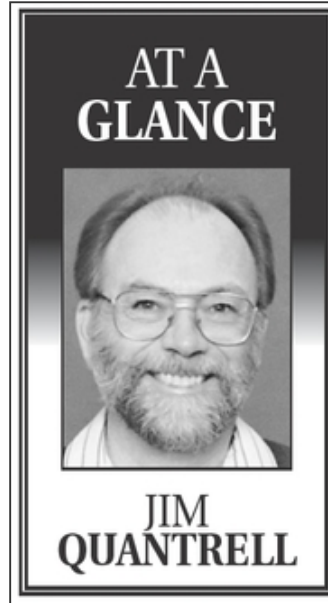
Cambridge archivist Jim Quantrell takes our readers back for a glance at events which occurred 10, 15 and 20 years ago.

EVENTS FROM 20 YEARS AGO

Second week of August 1989

The abortion issue, already a divisive question in the community, was about to receive a new player in the form of "Citizens for Choice". The new group was forming to "defend the right of women to have abortions and to promote pro-choice action".

The goals of the group were to help keep an abortion law off the books; to ensure that all women who wanted an abortion had access to safe abortion procedures; and to ensure a private relationship between a woman and her doctor.



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According to organizers, the idea for the group had come the previous year when anti-abortion groups were "heavily" picketing the offices of two Cambridge doctors who performed abortion procedures at the local hospital. A newspaper article reported that one of the physicians felt that there was no one in the city who seemed interested in actively supporting his side of the abortion issue so the new group was organizing to offer that support.

EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO *Second week of August 1994*

Amass bone marrow testing clinic was to be held at the Hespeler Legion in hopes of finding a donor for a local seven-year-old girl, Amanda Clements, who was suffering from leukemia. The clinic coordinator stated that up to 500 people could be partially tested to see if anyone in the city was a match for Amanda or for any of the hundreds of other people throughout Canada who were waiting for a bone marrow transplant.

Members of the local community had raised about \$20,000 in the previous few weeks to help pay for the expensive tests and in the end more than 1,000 people showed up to be tested.

Although the local economy was said to be improving, volunteers at the Cambridge soup kitchen were serving meals to a record high number of people. The upward trend had begun in the spring and by mid-summer the kitchen was serving about 900 meals each month.

EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Second week of August 1999

Plans were afoot to redevelop another large chunk of downtown Cambridge.

The parking lot on the south side of Dickson Street – between Water and Ainslie streets – was about to receive a \$90,000 makeover that would tie in with improvements made on Main Street the previous summer. Operators of a tour boat on the Grand River were rescued by local fire crews after their boat stalled on the edge of the Parkhill dam.

Police stated that Adventures on the Grand tour boat had left the dock and was turning north when it stopped

and started drifting south toward the dam. Apparently the boat's propeller had seized when it became entangled with a T-shirt floating in the river. When the boat started drifting toward the dam, the crew dropped anchor pins into the water to stop the boat from falling over the dam.

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