



1994: City buys theatre

Jim Quantrell, At a Glance

December 9, 2009

20 YEARS AGO

Second week of Dec. 1994

A proposal by the city's planning committee to ban the use of crossbows and long bows near built-up areas of the city drew fire not only from bow hunters and archery groups but also from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Problems had arisen in the north end of the city where residential development was infringing on some of the best deer habitat in the province. Hunting with rifles had already been banned in most of the city's fringe.

Area residents noted that their children played in the same woods in which the deer were hunted and a stray arrow could injure or kill one of them. Area farmers and Ministry of Natural Resources staff responded that the children were far less likely to be harmed by bow hunters than by hunters with rifles since the distances involved were much less and the children were more likely to be seen before any damage could be done.

They also noted that bow hunting was the only way that the local deer population in the city fringe areas could be kept in check since there were no natural predators in the area.

Ministry officials pointed out that about 600 deer were struck by motor vehicles each year and that that number would only increase if bow hunting were banned. City staff was working with ministry officials to see if an alternative to an outright ban could be worked out.

15 YEARS AGO

Second week of Dec. 1994

City council decided that its members would, from this time forward, be known as councillors rather than aldermen. Over the years, citizens concerned about gender-neutral language had raised the issue of what title to use. The title "alderman", until now, had been retained but the issue had never died.

The city had repurchased the former Capitol Theatre building on Water Street and now council had to decide what to do with it. The city had originally purchased the property from Famous Players and had sold it to Toronto developers Simcoe-Fox for \$150,000. The developers had intended to turn the tired theatre into a three-storey retail shopping centre

When the recession hit, the project had died and the city decided to take the property back under the terms of the development agreement. A lengthy court battle ensued before a final settlement was reached. Now council had to decide whether to give the site another shot at development or simply to demolish the old theatre building.

10 YEARS AGO

Second week of Dec. 1999

A report to city council from the city's planning department indicated that Cambridge's economy was "diversified, strong and growing". While assessed growth in neighbouring communities averaged about 2.5 per cent in the decade between 1989 and 1998, the assessment growth in Cambridge averaged approximately four per cent.

The city had been a commuter city for quite some time but now became a net importer of jobs. According to 1996 statistics, 28,210 Cambridge residents worked in the city. Another 15,815 worked outside of the city, while 17,130 came into the city to work. The economic news was not entirely positive, however. While growth in the retail trade and finance, insurance, real estate and business services sectors grew by 106 per cent, employment in government, education and health industries declined.

Jim Quantrell, archivist

City of Cambridge Archives

46 Dickson St. Cambridge (519) 740-4680 ext. 4610

quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca

This article is for personal use only courtesy of CambridgeTimes.ca - a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.
