



## 1989: Hard times ahead for Savage

**JIM QUANTRELL, AT A GLANCE**

July 23, 2009

*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** *Third week of July 1989*

There appeared to be hard times ahead for former employees of Savage Shoe as the once thriving shoe manufacturer finally closed its doors. Over the past few years, the company had seen its work force dwindle from 5,000 employees to several hundred by the time the company was sold a year previously.

The new owners had assured the remaining employees that all was well, but now the company had sent final lay-off notices to its remaining employees and had closed the factory's doors permanently.

Among those now seeking employment were workers with 30 years of experience in the shoe business, but who were older, had limited technical experience and were less than a decade from retirement. Their prospects did not look promising.

After three months of investigation,, Waterloo Regional Police had charged a Cambridge man in connection with the \$2-million blaze at Knox's (Galt) Presbyterian Church. The man was charged with break and enter, theft and arson in connection with the April 6, 1989 fire and with break and enter and theft in connection with an incident at Trinity Anglican Church on March 28, 1989.

**EVENTS FROM 15 YEARS AGO** *Third week of July 1994*

The City of Cambridge was entering a joint venture with the Cambridge Rowing Club involving the construction of a new boat storage building in Riverbluffs Park.

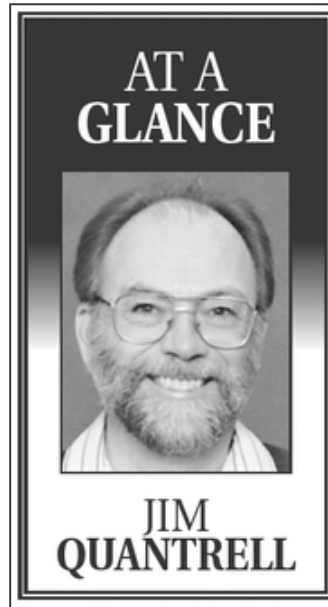
Cost of the project was estimated at \$116,400 and the new storage building would replace the dilapidated shed and trailer that the club was then using in the park. The project would see the rowing club pay an estimated \$51,400 for the construction of the storage shed and club facilities while the city would contribute \$65,000 toward the construction of added storage space, washrooms, servicing and a new parking lot.

Once the facility was complete, the club planned to sell it to the city for \$1 and enter into a 25-year lease agreement that would see the club pay an annual rental of \$1 with provisions for lease extensions for further five-year periods.

Since forming in 1987 the Cambridge Rowing Club had grown to include 60 members and interest was growing in the club's learn-to-row program.

The new 18-kilometre hiking and biking trail between Cambridge and Paris was officially opened.

The unnamed trail was the first in the Grand River Conservation Authority's rails-to-trails program to be opened. The trail had been purchased two years previously and the previous summer had been spent fixing up the former rail bed for recreational use. In the spring, a gravel surface had been added to the trail and signage and



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a parking lot had been installed at the head of the trail near the GTO gas bar. As part of the official opening the Arthritis Society planned a walkathon involving an estimated 200 people who hoped to raise \$10,000.

Between 150 and 200 people gathered outside the Stonebridge Business Centre on Water Street South for the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Galt Aircraft School. The school opened in August 1939 and closed in July 1944 after training over 10,000 Royal Canadian Air Force service men and civilians in aircraft maintenance.

**EVENTS FROM 10 YEARS AGO** *Third week of July 1994*

The City of Cambridge decided to sweeten the pot in its efforts to attract new development projects to the city's three core areas. Council approved a proposal that would provide up to \$1,000 per dwelling for residential development in a core area contaminated site. The new measures also waived development application and construction permit fees on new residential units constructed on rehabilitated contaminated land. The new measures were the latest in a series of moves designed to encourage core area revitalization. The city had already introduced property tax measures designed to encourage core area redevelopment and both the city and Region of Waterloo had removed development charges from all core area projects.

Seven men, 10 women and two children stepped off a bus to begin a new life in Cambridge. They were refugees from the unrest in Kosovo in the former Yugoslavia. They had spent the last few months at Camp Borden near Barrie waiting for time they could begin their new life in Canada. The refugees had 24 months to decide whether to stay in Canada permanently or to return to Kosovo.

The Cambridge Centre for the Arts building project got a major boost when Automated Tooling Systems Co. (ATS) pledged \$20,000 over five years towards the creation of the arts centre. This sum was in addition to the \$200,000 that Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Canada had donated earlier.

The fundraising committee hoped to raise \$500,000 of the estimated \$2 million they would need to build the \$2-million facility.

Steeves and Rosema Enterprises Ltd. of Sarnia announced that the company had purchased the site of the former Eventide Home on St. Andrews Street with the intention of building a seniors' complex that could mean a total investment of \$18-million in the city.

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