



## 1990: Councillors reject nine per cent raise

Jim Quantrell, At a Glance

July 12, 2010

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

### 20 YEARS AGO - Second week of July 1990

City council members rejected a proposal to raise council pay levels by nine per cent for local politicians to begin with the next council. In so doing council, also rejected the findings of a task force that had been created to study the issue of council remuneration.

That group recommended council members receive a nine per cent raise to reflect the 12 per cent growth in the city's population over the previous five years. At the time a council member received an honorarium of \$11,900 while the mayor was paid \$38,700 for the duties of the only full time position on council.

City officials announced the \$600,000 gift from Toyota Motor Manufacturing Co. would be used to renovate the old city hall on Dickson Street for use as the home for the municipal archives. Council approved the use of the gift – that, with interest, had grown to \$670,000 – after rejecting support for a proposed \$20-million destination museum and IMAX theatre.

### 15 YEARS AGO - Second week of July 1995

Soon after taking ownership of the John Galt Mall and promising significant changes to the dilapidated Hespeler Road shopping facility the new owners announced a \$46-million investment in the property that would expand the then current 185,000 square-foot mall to 387,000 square-feet August 1996. Central to the expansion plans were the new major tenants of the mall.

### 10 YEARS AGO - Second week of July 2000

A number of dignitaries, including the city's mayor, donned hard hats to partake in ground breaking ceremonies for the new arts centre. The design for the \$2.5-million project had been in place for months but the start of the project had awaited the results of a \$400,000 fundraising project by the Cambridge Arts Guild.

At the same time the city's planning and development committee approved downtown riverbank projects totaling \$146,500 including a new water line walkway dubbed the River Street Landing. It was designed to connect a new staircase in Dalton Court with a new pedestrian plaza located north of Ferguson Cottage on the river's west bank. Approval in principle was also granted for the Grand Discovery Centre which was to become a focal point on the riverbank for information, education and entertainment.

It was announced that the sluice gates in the Park Hill Road dam on the Grand River where Mark Gage and Waterloo Regional police diver Dave Nicholson lost their lives would be permanently sealed with concrete in the fall. A spokesperson for the Grand River Conservation Authority estimated that the cost of closing the four sluice gates would be in the neighbourhood of \$50,000.

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