



1990: Development freeze chills Blair

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.

20 YEARS AGO

Fourth week of March 1990

A skirmish in the battle for Blair resulted in a marginal victory for the developers, as the city's planning and development committee backed off the legally tenuous development freeze proposed for the hamlet. The committee had recommended a development freeze for Blair based on the lack of adequate services to meet the needs of all the new homes proposed for the area. At the same time there was a plan afoot to designate portions of Blair as historically significant areas as a means to limit further residential development in the hamlet. City officials had begun a preliminary investigation to determine if a full inventory of Blair's heritage value was warranted. If a full study was undertaken it could lead to the designation of large portions of the community as a heritage district similar to one that had been created on the south side of Main Street between Ainslie and Water Streets.

15 YEARS AGO

Fourth week of March 1995

City ice users were fully supportive of recommendations to spend \$8.3-million to renovate and upgrade the Galt Arena Gardens and to provide an addition onto the Hespeler Memorial Arena that would create a seventh ice surface for the city. What they didn't want was to wait until 1997 for the work to be completed. Pointing to ever increasing user figures, they urged that the needed work be done right away and offered to sit down with city staff to develop a fund raising drive to help get the job done.

10 YEARS AGO

Fourth week of March 2000

The date to submit bids to purchase the 913 acres available at Cruickston Park was drawing near with only one offer to purchase in hand. That bid was from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and was in the process of being revised. In addition to the single formal bid, the agents responsible for selling the property had received interest from Jan Chaplin and Mark Fretwurst, who owned Cruickston Park Manor House.

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