



## 1989: First spirit walk a success

Jim Quantrell, At a Glance

October 28, 2009

*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 Oct. 1989*

Cambridge city council gave draft plan approval for a new subdivision to be built in the Myers Road/Cheese Factory Road area. However, while giving overall approval to the plan council ditched plans for a gas bar and commercial plaza that had been part of the original plan.

Instead the developer was asked to replace the commercial block with a medium-density residential block. While the plan was approved in principle the developer could not begin to build until the region determined that the Galt Sewage Treatment plant had sufficient capacity to handle the sewage from the new development.

The City of Cambridge, under the direction of the Bernice Adams Cultural Advisory Committee, published the city's first Directory of Artists. It was the hope of the committee that the directory would encourage co-operation and dialogue, and increase the visibility and activity of the local artistic community.

### 15 YEARS AGO

*Fourth week of Oct. 1994*

Cambridge MPP Mike Farnan returned to Premier Bob Rae's cabinet when he was sworn in as the province's new transport minister. The appointment was the latest in a string of appointments for the local MPP who had started the term as the province's solicitor general. He maintained that post through a ticket-fixing "scandal" that involved one of his local constituency office workers but was relieved of his duties during the next cabinet shuffle.

His appointment to the transport portfolio did not mean that Cambridge was on the fast track to receive the GO transit service the city had been seeking for so long. Mr. Farnan declared that he could not play favourites and that the proposal "will be considered right along with every other project submitted".

### 10 YEARS AGO

*Fourth week of Oct. 1999*

Three groups of city residents took to the streets to voice their concerns related to the proposed sale of the Cruickston Park property by the University of Guelph. Approximately 50 people from Blair, south Fountain Street and the Linear Park area picketed in front of the Blackshop Restaurant where a closed door meeting between university officials and the City of Cambridge was taking place.

The previous week university officials had announced that it was putting the 913-acre estate up for sale. Protesters noted that they were not objecting to the university's plan to sell the property. As the owners that was their right to do so. Their concern was that the property was being marketed for a sand and gravel operation a use for which they could see little upside.

The city's first Spirit Walk, sponsored by Heritage Cambridge, was proclaimed a success by the event's organizers. Although beset by controversy in the days leading up to the event the spirited walk in the woods attracted approximately 600 participants to hear the stories of some of the city's more interesting ancestors.

Organizers believed that even more people might have attended the walk through Victoria Park had there been less confusion caused by a last minute change in venue due to a city bylaw related to activities in the cemetery.

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