



1989: Old theatre was worth saving

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

Third week of September 1989

Simcoe-Fox Developments, a Torontobased firm that had purchased the former Capitol Theatre on Water Street South from the city a year previously, decided that the old movie house was worth a shot at renovation.

The company had originally planned to demolish the former theatre to make way for a three-storey complex with some retail, commercial and residential uses. Plans for the renovated Capitol Theatre called for a two-storey retail development with an escalator and skylights. The theatre, built in 1930, was one of the last remaining art deco buildings in the region.

15 YEARS AGO

Third week of September 1994

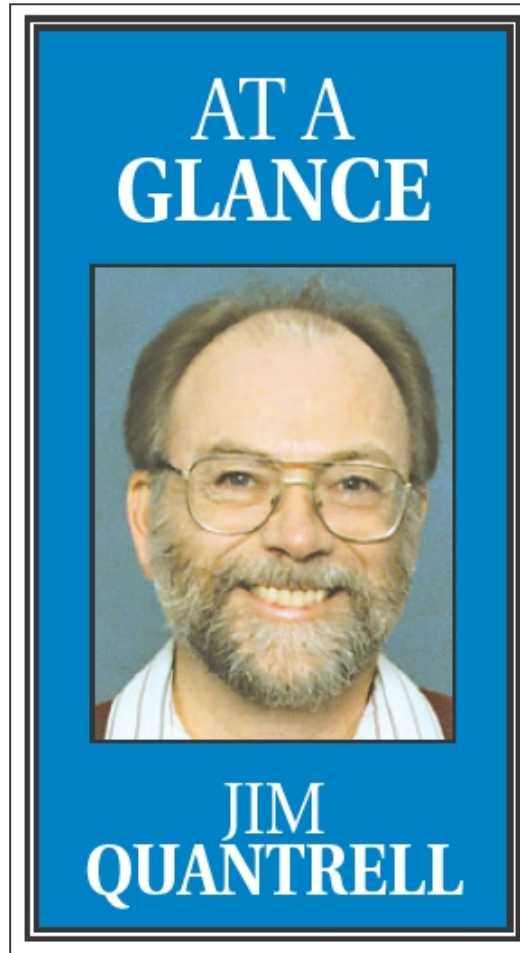
United Way officials announced they would be seeking to raise \$1,380,000 during the next three months. The goal represented an 8.7 per cent increase over the more than \$1,268,000 donated to the 1993 campaign. That year's goal was \$1,290,000. According to a United Way fact sheet prepared for the campaign, the organization's 28 member agencies were experiencing record demands for services and new needs were emerging.

Jeannie Homes of Cambridge opened its sales offices to pre-sell homes in the company's planned new development on the site of the former Wellington Square project in the downtown core. The new development, promoted as Park Place, was to offer 100 midrange townhouses built on the 22-acre site bounded by Wellington, Main, Harris and Bruce streets.

Plans were unveiled for a \$3-million project to convert the former Encyclopedia Britannica building on Holiday Inn Drive into a Bible college and seminary. A spokesman for London's Heritage Baptist College and Heritage Theological Seminary stated that his organization wanted to relocate in the Waterloo Region and had found an ideal site in Cambridge.

The only hitch to proceeding with plans to move onto the site was the zoning of the property. The existing zoning would allow the college's administrative offices to function on the site but would have to be changed to permit the operation of the classrooms and planned residences.

10 YEARS AGO *Third week of September 1999*



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Officials with the City of Cambridge were authorized to investigate an entirely different form of regional restructuring – one that would keep the cities intact.

The local civic leaders were to explore the possibility of creating a non-taxing service board for Waterloo Region that could potentially replace the upper tier of local government.

If implemented, the service board would provide services like transit, health, social services and regional planning. Part of the motivation for the move seemed to be a need to respond to yet another call from the regional chair for a single large city for the region.

The Out of the Cold program was looking for help from local churches that would enable organizers to expand service to seven nights a week. Thus far, five churches had agreed to run the program one night a week each, leaving two nights each week when the homeless would have no way to escape from the cold. The previous year, volunteers had fed a total of 1,246 meals and had hosted more than 250 overnight guests.

With just two serviced lots left in the Cambridge Business Park, city council authorized the acquisition of 220 acres of raw land behind the Toyota plant.

The acquisition increased the city's unserviced land portfolio to approximately 680 acres. Over the previous three years, officials sold 100 acres of industrial land and in the first six months of 1999 sales had already topped 50 acres.

Jim Quantrell, archivist City of Cambridge Archives

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

quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca

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