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## City council said no to Christmas tree bonfire

By Bev Neeb

Posted 1 year ago

10 YEARS AGO -- 1999

City council extinguished the idea of holding a Christmas tree bonfire as part of its New Year's Eve millennium celebration in Lower Queen's Park. Bowing to complaints from some residents, Coun. Roger Black said, "We are an environmental city. We don't burn trees."

Hamlet Public School students Natasha Williams and Tyler Sager unveiled a plaque proclaiming a quiet garden area at the school commemorating the recently closed Portia Public School. The project was inspired by parent Jeff Sager who said the idea was to remember families, students, teachers and staff of Portia school for the past 32 years.

Milazim Balovski, the former Stratford YMCA employee from Macedonia who won the hearts and support of so many locals during his long struggle to become a Canadian citizen, was granted a rare ministerial permit from the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to come back to Canada, this time with his wife and child.

Annual Remembrance Day ceremonies were held under sunny skies and cool temperatures. Len Young and Jack Lightfoot, two city legion members were honoured for their long-time dedication and service to the Royal Canadian Legion.

The city's new \$563,000 aerial fire truck was on show for council members, city police and ambulance drivers during a lunchtime ceremony unveiling the new truck.

25 YEARS AGO -- 1984

An estimated 2,000 people attended a three-day energy show at the Stratford Coliseum. More than 100 exhibitors presented displays and demonstrations of their energy-related products and systems and the event was called a "definite success" by Perth Energy Society president Lorne Bolton.

Mitchell built a new winter home for the nine swans which lived in the main park in town, but some of the swans preferred life in Logan Township and had taken off up the Thames River. Town employees were sent off in pursuit of the runaways.

Cooper Energy Services celebrated the production of its 1,000th Avon industrial gas generator at its Stratford plant.

Youth of the Year awards to honour "well rounded youth" were presented by Optimist Club president Jack Webster to Lucille Price, Karen Price, Jason Hagedorn and Brad Jezard, all of whom had been recommended by area residents.

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Bill Wreford, owner of Bradshaw's on Ontario Street, announced he would be opening a new store in London in February.

Veterans Percy Farr, Bert Dodds, Manuel Seiler, Lloyd Coxon and Harry Yost were among those who enjoyed the Milverton legion Remembrance Day dinner.

The city cleared all hurdles and was set to host the 1985 Southwestern Ontario Regional Games for the Physically Disabled, an event expected to bring 125 athletes to the city and \$70,000 in revenue to city businesses.

50 YEARS AGO -- 1959

Fullarton Township Reeve J. Wilson Brown told Perth County council that the social mixing of mentally incompetent and elderly sane persons at Spruce Lodge, the county's home for the aged, was causing many people to send elderly family members to private nursing homes and thus a loss of income for the lodge. The home's payroll, including the salaries of superintendent Horace Day and his wife, amounted to \$13,700 a year.

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