

# NEWS RELEASE



*For Immediate Release*

## *Cambridge Moves Forward with Expanded Plans for the Old Post Office*

Cambridge, Ontario. December 17, 2013... The project to save the old Post Office at 12 ½ Main Street in Cambridge took another step forward this week with the issuance of a tender for a Heritage Consultant. An iconic building for the citizens of Cambridge, the building is also designated by the Ontario Heritage Act and is on the Historic Sites and Monuments directory through Parks Canada.

Originally called the Galt Customs Building and Post Office, this 1885 structure will become part of the City of Cambridge assets. A view of the back of the building nestled on the historic Grand River. Inset - the front entrance view off of Water Street.



“This is an architectural gem in our community that was designed by Thomas Fuller, Dominion Architect during the days of Sir John A. Macdonald,” says Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig. “Known locally as the old post office, the location also served as the Galt Customs House.”

The 1885 heritage building overlooking the Grand River was purchased by Cambridge City Council last year for approximately \$1 million. At that time, the City invested to preserve the heritage site and save the building as it was deemed structurally unsound. The original estimate to refurbish the building in its existing form was \$6.5 million, although the end use and service

model was still to be defined. Since then, Cambridge has completed a structural analysis, identified preliminary heritage costs, defined the new space requirements for services and refined the overall plan to create an innovative satellite library facility combined with a restaurant. With these adjustments, the capital investment costs are \$11 Million and include design costs dispersed in 2014 with construction to start in 2015.

“This will be a signature piece that builds on the waterfront amenities, has far reaching impacts on the downtown area, and offers a bold departure from a traditional library setting,” remarks Greg Hayton, Chief Executive Officer for Cambridge Libraries and Galleries. The location will also offer digital learning labs, a creative writing centre for teens, and expanded hours of operations. “Imagine taking your kids to a library program and combining it with a dining experience - it’s a winning

formula for citizens in Cambridge.” The project also supports a recent customer service survey which placed library development on the top of the priority list.

“The project is a win-win” says Colin Carmichael, Chair of the Library Board. “An expansion of library services was already planned for the Galt core and this building allows us to meet that need while creating yet another landmark that Cambridge residents can be proud of.”

The guiding project committee consists of a mix of internal and external community leaders including the Chair of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, John Oldfield. He’s says this building is one of the most important architectural buildings in the community and has a gothic style that was very popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. “This building was designed by the same person who created the original Parliamentary buildings including the Parliamentary Library that still stands today. It has the most elaborate exterior of any building in the city and is an important asset for the community to invest in and preserve.”

It is expected that the Heritage Consultant will be awarded in January 2013 with the Architect for the project being in place by spring. The project will be approached using a Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standard consistent with the City policy which embraces sustainability and recognizes cultural, social, environmental and economic needs of the community.

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***About the City of Cambridge***

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in southwestern Ontario, part of Canada’s Technology Triangle. The population of Cambridge is approximately 130,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

You meet the nicest people in Cambridge. It’s a place that understands all about coming together. There is so much more to Cambridge than the beautiful lands created at the convergence of two rivers or its logistically perfect location in the heart of Ontario’s economic corridor. Cambridge is the coming together of people from diverse, close-knit and proud communities. The people of Cambridge ‘do the right thing’ by respecting history, family values, a sound work ethic, the arts, environment and advancement. A young city, Cambridge is a master of balancing the excitement and promise of the new with the historical significance and stability of the old. A place where coming together is just the start. Uniting together is what sets Cambridge apart. Undiscovered-Cambridge families and entrepreneurs get more for less, and sacrifice nothing.

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with potential for career growth and advancement. If you require information in an accessible format or accommodation to access municipal services please contact [accessibility@cambridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@cambridge.ca). For more information on the area or the corporation visit [www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca). The City of

Cambridge press room is located at [www.cambridge.ca/pressroom](http://www.cambridge.ca/pressroom). To opt out of the news release distribution, please send an email to Linda Fegan [feganl@cambridge.ca](mailto:feganl@cambridge.ca).