



For Immediate Release

## **Spring Clean Up Underway Details on Clean Up Activities for The City of Cambridge**

Cambridge, Ontario. April 8, 2008...Spring has really sprung and there are a number of City of Cambridge initiatives underway to address the clean up needs of the community. It's an important matter to eliminate the presence of litter and one that the City of Cambridge takes very seriously.

### **New Loose Leaf Pick Up Scheduled**

A new spring program will commence to offer a one-time pick up of loose leaves. As a result of early snow fall and uncooperative weather conditions last year, loose leaf collection was suspended prior to completion of the program. The City of Cambridge Public Works team will have a one-time loose leaf collection for residents who place their leaves at the road side curb prior to April 28<sup>th</sup>.

"Crews will systematically make one pass through the city and pick up all loose leaves," says Ed Kovacs, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works. "It's a new initiative to offer the community a further opportunity to discard their loose leaves before the program begins in the fall." If residents miss this one-time opportunity, regular yard waste weeks are part of the garbage collection schedule through the Region of Waterloo.

The originally scheduled loose leaf program will continue to operate in the fall for approximately four weeks.

### **Litter Pick Up**

Cleaning up litter on city-owned properties has already begun. Staff will work on a full time basis to address the needs of each city facility and property until May 1<sup>st</sup>. After May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Litter Brigade will take over and work for the remaining four months of the year. The Litter Brigade is a team of secondary students who work with the Public Works crews to clean up the community. An initiative that started some three years ago through the office of the Chief Administrative Officer, the program helps to direct further resources to the beautification of the city.

### **20 Minute Make Over**

Other litter clean ups include the coordinated approach by the city and Cambridge City Green. A Cambridge Community day aimed at cleaning up primary parks and natural areas is slated for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to engage our community in the pro-active endeavor of tidying debris in many public spaces,” says Janet Babcock, Commissioner of Planning Services. Babcock’s team encourages people to register for the project.

The City Green strategy is one of many Planning Services Department initiatives which is a sub-committee of the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC). Its members are community volunteers and it strives to encourage and coordinate individual and collective action in support of the environment by promoting lifestyle changes and participation in community-based projects.

Alternatively, there is an “organize your own” clean up period running from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. The registration is coordinated by the City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Green volunteers and there are bags and gloves provided. More information and details about registration is available under the Planning Services, City Departments section of the website.

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#### Related Facts about Clean Ups and Environmental Focuses:

- Clean up and educational groups include volunteers focused on our waterways. Currently Canada’s only Groundwater Guardian, Cambridge Waters (Water Awareness Through Education and Resources Stewardship), demonstrates the proactive establishment of this subcommittee of the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) by the City of Cambridge.
- Yellow fish program works to keep storm water clean. The program involves a group of volunteers who paint yellow fish symbols next to storm drains and distribute fish-shaped brochures to nearby households. The brochures, sponsored by Cambridge Green, explain to residents the threats posed by toxic materials emptied into storm drains ending up in nearby waterways.
- A 2005 report showed there was more than 26 tonnes of litter collected in the first six months as a result of the litter clean up programs.
- Cambridge Garbage Receptacles - Transportation and Public Works maintains 75 locations citywide with additional 250 locations for parks maintained by the Community Services Department. As well, Grand River Transit maintains a large inventory within the City of Cambridge.
- There’s a Region of Waterloo Environmental Enforcement Hotline (day) 519.650.8260 and (evening) 519.650.8200.
- The Region of Waterloo manages the garbage and recycling programs in the City of Cambridge. Residents may call 1.519.883.5100 or visit the Region’s website ([www.region.waterloo.on.ca](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca)) for more information.

- More information on loose leaf pick up is available on the City's website ([www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca)) or by calling 519.621.0740.

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. In April 2008, the population reached over 125,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. 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 opportunities for career growth and advancement.

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 <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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