

Projects impact downtown Galt

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38-40 Ainslie St. N.



Work at historic city hall



Queen's Square

There's a lot more going on in downtown Galt than meets the eye. While major projects like Waterscape, Historic Grand Loft and the resurrection of the old Overland and Royal Hotels have captured the limelight, a host of other projects are also making an impact on Old Galt. Here's a quick rundown of projects underway or recently completed.

CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

50 Dickson Street

The City of Cambridge has just spent \$30 million to build its new civic administration building and redevelop the area around historic city hall on Dickson Street. Approximately 200 city staff now work at the new building which is up for a Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The 85,000-square-foot structure has a wide range of green and energy-saving features. Even though the building has yet to hold its grand opening, it has become a hub for the community. Public functions are staged in the large atrium each week.

NEW CIVIC SQUARE

With the snow melted away from the public space in front of the new civic administration building, plans are being made for a number of exciting projects in the new civic square facing Dickson Street. The city is spending approximately \$200,000 on a piece of modern art by Stephen Cruise of Willowdale, which will be installed this summer adjacent to historic city hall. Above the new sculpture, workmen are busy creating a \$1.8 million glass link between the old and new city halls. Meanwhile, city staff are co-ordinating a series of special events that are designed to draw people to the civic square and keep them coming back throughout the year.

CAMBRIDGE FARMERS' MARKET

Over the last five years, a transition has been underway at Cambridge Farmers' Market. Founded in 1830, the market has been given a new roof, had its exterior walls cleaned and restored, had its parking lot redesigned, its outdoor areas expanded and been given a full-time manager. The market's management committee is currently working on a new strategic plan designed to build on its strength and success, as well as address deficiencies.

38-40 AINSLIE ST. N.

The prominent building near the corner of Ainslie and Dickson streets has undergone significant changes. The owner completely renovated the upper-storeys to add high-quality residential units. The owner has already used the city's building revitalization program to add new windows and roofing and will be completing more work to the building and storefronts.

HISTORIC CITY HALL, 46 DICKSON ST.

With the completion of the new civic administration building, the City of Cambridge is turning its attention to implementing the conservation master plan for historic city hall. The phased redevelopment project started last year with a \$1 million investment in a new slate roof. This year, \$1.8 million is being spent removing the rear fire escape, creating a new internal rear staircase, repairing the rear wall and other work. Over the next four years, roughly \$4.3 million will be spent to update the building, give back some of its former charm and bring the structure up to current building and fire codes.

GRAND RIVER BREWING COMPANY

295 Ainslie St.

Rob Hannenberg and Bob Creighton have transformed the Old Galt Knife Company on Ainslie Street into one of Ontario's newest craft breweries. The former knife factory is proving to be ideal for the new business with the retail outlet and testing room at one end and the manufacturing facilities stretching across the rest of the building. The Grand River Brewing Company has launched a number of beers since opening. The company's beers are available through the retail outlet and on tap at a growing number of restaurants and pubs in Waterloo Region and the GTA.

This look at downtown Galt will continue in an upcoming issue of the Times

CAMBRIDGE TIMES

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