

For Immediate Release

City Property Purchase Preserves History For Future Generations

Cambridge, Ontario. August 20, 2008... The City of Cambridge today takes possession of an important cultural heritage property ensuring the house will be saved for future generations. To guarantee the city landmark is protected, City Council gave direction to spend \$150,000 on the property located at 65 Concession Street.

"Staff purchased the property with the intent to resell it and to have the new owner designate it under the Ontario Heritage Act," says Steven Fairweather, Commissioner of Corporate Services.

Constructed in the 1880's of grey granite in the Italianate style of architecture, the house was originally built for Frederick G. Allenby, one of Galt's first solicitors. Later it was owned by William Philip, son-in-law to Allenby, who was the President of Gore Mutual Insurance Company. Philip is best known for being the first chair of both the Grand River Conservation Commission (1938) and the Grand River Conservation Authority (1948). Subsequently, the house became part of the Hilltop Manor Nursing Home owned by peopleCare Inc.

In late October of 2007, peopleCare submitted an application with the City to demolish the stone residential structure. A permit for demolition was requested by the firm in June 2008.

"Although the building is in need of a very significant rehabilitation, the City is seeking purchasers who have a vision to restore the former elegance to this heritage structure," says Pam Wolf, Council representative on the Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. In June, the committee brought forward a report to council recommending the designation of the property. "This will now happen in conjunction with the resale and the new property owner will have a role in the heritage designation process," she adds.

The City of Cambridge will address some of the immediate needs of the building including investing in roof repairs. The residential property with a lot of 87ft X 190ft, will be back on the market and available for purchase soon. For more information on the property, please contact George Forhan, Director, Realty & Corporate Property Services at (519) 740-4680 x 4587.



65 Concession Street (left) will be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act when the new owners take possession.

The City of Cambridge purchased the property and officially took ownership on August 20, 2008.

About City of Cambridge Realty & Corporate Property Services Division

The Realty & Corporate Property Services Division provides a range of Real Estate services on behalf of all city departments (excluding the Economic Development Division). The Division also provides building management and operations services for corporate buildings including the new City Hall and Cambridge Farmers' Market.

Specific division responsibilities include: Real Estate purchases and sales on behalf of the municipality; Commercial and residential leases and other agreements pertaining to real property; Building management and custodial services for City Hall and other division corporate buildings; Overseeing environmental site investigations; and operation of the historic Cambridge Farmers' Market.

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 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. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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