

For Immediate Release

Structural Evaluations of City Dams

Remotely Operated Vehicles with Underwater Cameras Used for Inspection

Cambridge, Ontario. August 22, 2008...A report on the evaluation of a Cambridge dam is set to come down the pipe with a second study on another location slated to kick off next week.

Silknit Dam underwent a structural review and detailed design analysis in the latter part of 2007 at a cost of approximately \$42,000. Undertaken by Sanchez Engineering Inc., the objective was to provide findings on the overall condition of the concrete gravity dam built in 1906.

"The evaluation of the dam found it to be stable and in good structural condition, however, the spillway on the north side of the dam does require rehabilitation in the short term," says Cathy Robertson, Director of Engineering Services for the City of Cambridge.

The Silknit Dam is located in Hespeler Village, east of Highway 24 and north of Queen Street. It's near the former Dominion Woolens and Worsteds Ltd. buildings known as the Silknit Mill and was originally constructed to supply water to the textile mill that dates back to 1864.

The project enabled a full examination of Silknit Dam, looking at the current condition and the structures' long term stability, and provided recommendations and detailed design for rehabilitation measures required for future dam integrity and safety. Robertson says the data collection was comprehensive and also involved underwater and geotechnical studies. The City is now proceeding to obtain permits and plans to undertake the necessary rehabilitation work next year, funded at a cost of \$250,000 through the 2008 Capital Budget.

Now undergoing evaluation is the Riverside Dam, also on the Speed River. It's located immediately upstream of King Street in Riverside Park. The City of Cambridge issued a request for proposal in May 2008. Sanchez Engineering Inc. was awarded the \$60,000 contract for similar investigative work that will deliver recommendations for future considerations.

Preliminary ground work began last week by the engineering firm. Next week, visual in water inspections will begin utilizing remotely operated vehicles with attached submersible cameras. This infield work, along with core sampling and other assessments, generally takes about two to three weeks followed by further data collection and evaluation by the consultant.

Phil Antoniow, Manager, Design and Construction Engineering, says when the report is ready to go, the City will conduct a public information session in the fall to share the findings. "Riverside Dam is about 100 years old and this investigation will help us determine its condition."

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Attention Photo Editors: The in-water portion of the field survey using remotely operated vehicles with underwater cameras is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, August 26th or Wednesday August 27th**. Please contact Phil Antoniow to confirm activity and opportunity to visit the site.

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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
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