

For Immediate Release

Budget Orientation Update

Cambridge, Ontario. September 23, 2009...Cambridge staff today held a budget orientation gathering to provide an education opportunity for members of City Council. The informal meeting gave participants an overview of service delivery levels at the 2009 base budget.

Highlights for participants included an opportunity to learn more about the current strategic plans for the corporation such as those for Leisure Service/Facilities, Arts and Culture, Heritage, Economic Development and the Library. Identification of challenges that Council will face in 2010 was paramount to the need for a day-long education session.

"As public officials, it's our job to seek opportunities to improve our knowledge and understanding of issues," says Mayor Doug Craig. "This new education component allows for us to gather more complete information; for us to improve our understanding of budgetary issues and better prepare for the public sessions in January." Examples of questions included: growth impacts on City services; technological changes and how they enhance service delivery or impact costs; changes in the planning act and legislation and how these impact City operations; and winter maintenance strategies around resource allocations.

Most importantly to note is that the session provided an education forum and no decisions or staff direction resulted from the meeting. Already in the mix is an October 26th session for Cambridge City Council where staff will deliver reports with recommendations pertaining to final preparation of the 2010 budget.

The formal budget process begins with a public delegation night on January 18th, 2010. This is followed by a series of opportunities for public discussion on January 21st, 28th and February 4th. Final budget discussion and approval will take place at a Council meeting slated for March 2, 2010.

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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 2009, the population reached over 126,000 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

The City of Cambridge press room is located at

http://www.cambridge.ca/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing

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