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**For Immediate Release****No New Staff or Growth Items Proposed in  
Cambridge 2010 Budget**

Cambridge, Ontario. January 15, 2010...Cambridge staff today unveiled the details of a lean Capital and Operating budget that will go forward to the Budget Task Force for consideration.

Recognizing the global economic situation, the City continues to tighten the belt while delivering a balance of services to the growing community. In setting the framework for the proposed 2010 budget, staff looked to a bare bones approach with no new staff, no growth items, and deferral or pushing back some capital projects.

Tax assessment is down slightly to 1.30 per cent compared to 1.99 per cent in 2009. The municipality also has some shortfalls in the investment income due to interest rate declines of approximately \$1.5 million in 2009. Further, revenue availability from city's reserves is no longer at a level that can help the over-all budget picture.

"It's a tough year for all Canadian municipalities," says Budget Task Force Chair Gary Price. "While Cambridge has been in a relatively good financial position, the recent investment in infrastructure means we have accelerated some capital projects that will result in carrying a debt for the first time in many years." Price notes that the accelerated capital programs were a good deal for the community as our share amounted to one third of the \$34 million improvements with financial contributions from the Federal and Provincial governments.

If the 2010 budget proposal is approved by Council the impact on the tax payer is 3.77 per cent or about \$36.56 on the average household.

In addition to putting the freeze on hiring, the operating budget also looks to trim one-time expenditures and base budget growth. Strategic plans like the Core Area Master Parking Plan and the Leisure Services/Facilities Master Plan will move forward this year in areas that don't require additional resources.

From a capital budget perspective, the proposal is to trim about 1.92 per cent of the overall budget or cut approximately \$1.2 million in capital projects. Line items like core area improvements that don't have specific projects defined have been identified for cuts from the capital program.

## KEY DATES

The budget process includes a January 18<sup>th</sup> budget task force delegation night for groups to present their budget needs to the Committee of the Whole at 7:00 pm. The 2010 Municipal Rate Review is also slated for that night.

Subsequently, the Budget Task Force will conduct full day meetings in City Hall's Bowman Room on January 21, 28 and if necessary February 4, 2010. Council is expected to approve the budget and the 2010 Municipal Rate Review on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

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### About Cambridge

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 advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

### About the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is a dynamic organization filled with dedicated people who deliver vital municipal services to you. Services that residents, businesses, visitors and people like your family and friends enjoy. We're a comprehensive team of professionals: engineers, financial specialists, skilled trades, administrative experts, customer service, communications - and the list goes on.

We're proud to be part of the systems that bring you the array of services that citizens in Cambridge need:

- Parks and recreation
- Activities and programs like pools, seniors' centres, community centres, arenas and other facilities
- Sports programs and all the needs related to playing fields, like indoor soccer, baseball diamonds and other amenities
- Events
- Farmers' Market
- Cemetery services
- Road programs
- Leaf pick up services
- Winter maintenance services
- Water and sewer services
- Fire, emergency and related services
- By-laws and enforcement
- Tax administration
- Licensing for businesses, weddings, dogs, and other services like death certificates, notarizing or commissioning of documents
- Archival research
- Economic Development and business support programs

- Tourism support to share opportunities to showcase the festivals and help bring visitors in to support retail and other elements of the economy
- Administration of committees, steering groups and advisory groups
- Planning and development services
- Traffic and parking services
- Ensuring the best security, police, transit, garbage, water processing service, utilities, animal control are in place.
- Libraries and galleries
- Centre for the arts
- Accessibility matters
- Council services including things like supporting the upcoming needs of our residents for the Oct 2010 municipal elections

It's a multitude of services and we continue to refine and review them to ensure we deliver the services in the most effective, efficient, and proactive ways.

In 2010 we are undergoing a corporate service review. This is a further check and balance system to seeking improvements - like better technologies to simplify processes or realigning how we operate. The comprehensive review is happening this year with a view to providing a report to Council for consideration. The report will be available by year end and will be addressed by the newly elected council for the 2011 budget.

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/the\\_office\\_of\\_the\\_chief\\_administrative\\_officer/corporate\\_communications\\_marketing](http://www.cambridge.ca/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing)

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