

For Immediate Release

More Budget Cuts Made To Reduce Impact on Cambridge Taxes Proposal to Spark Nearly \$6 Million in Downtown Revitalization

Cambridge, Ontario. January 28, 2010...Moments ago, Cambridge City Council (Budget Task Force) concluded the final day of budget talks arriving at further reductions to the overall tax impact for residents.

A lean capital and operating budget that includes no growth items, no new staff and basically flat-lining expenditures for 2010 resulted in a 2.78 per cent impact on the average tax payer or \$26.96 per year. This is based on an average home with a market value of \$214,000.

The budget trimmed \$1.2 million in capital projects mostly through deferring the programs to subsequent years in the 10 year capital forecast. The bare bones approach also helped compensate for the lower tax assessment which is down to 1.30 per cent as compared with 1.99 per cent in 2009; and shortfalls that were expected in the investment incomes due to interest rate declines.

One further community support that was confirmed for the base budget was for \$16,500 to allocate to the United Way of Cambridge and North Dumfries. The funding makes way for future continued support for the valuable work the organization does in supporting the community.

The Budget Task Force also supported a new initiative that will spark community development through a Federal Government Funding program called 'FEDDEV'. The project spurs a three phase development on Main Street between Water and Ainslie Streets. If the application is approved, the City will invest \$375,000 or 50 per cent of the total costs in the second phase to provide streetscaping for the area.

"It's a public-private partnership that results in nearly \$6 Million in investment for the downtown core," says Councillor Ben Tucci.

The first phase involved a \$2.5 Million investment from a private developer for land acquisition. The 2010 budget now has a line item for phase 2 of the project for the streetscaping renewal project. The final phase will see a further \$3.2 Million private sector outlay for further property development.

"The City's investment will enhance streetscapes and pave the way for further and much needed revitalization to the downtown. If approved for funding, half will be covered by the Federal government," says Mayor Doug Craig.

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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 up coming 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

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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