

For Immediate Release

Historic City Hall in Cambridge A Transformation Success

Cambridge, Ontario. February 12, 2010...The restoration of Historic City Hall on Dickson Street is a fine example of community coming together to tackle a challenge - preserving the historical elements while transforming the building to accommodate accessibility and 21st century technology. Last night, Cambridge City Council shared a sneak peak with members of the heritage community.

The stately Historic City Hall, completed in 1858, has undergone a \$5.7 million restoration project as part of the Conservation Master Plan initiative. The construction on this final phase began in 2009. In 2008, phase one of the project was completed which included construction of a slate roof and a glass link that offered accessible access to and from the building. However, planning and community consultation started well before then and the overall project was sanctioned by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

"The challenge was to preserve and repair existing construction while tying in new features such as the accessible glass link to bring the structure up to the building code," says Bob Paul, Director of Facilities Management & Development for the City. "All this and we accomplished it on time and within budget."

The final phase of the project included a number of technological advancement for audio/visual in addition to the infrastructure enhancements that ultimately improves the experience for community representatives who attend Council:

- The Council Chambers were completely overhauled with new sound systems, noise barriers, and two 108-inch Panasonic flat panel viewing screens for the public (the only other installation of these units was at the Vancouver 2010 games). All Council, Management staff and media positions in the Chamber are also equipped with 19" flat panel screens for viewing agenda items and delegate presentations.
- Delegates can bring in various forms of media for presentation: VHS, DVD, Blue Ray, memory sticks and even hard copy documents. A document camera is fixed above the delegate table with the ability to display hard copy drawings, pictures and other documents or objects
- In addition to the document projection camera, the Chambers will have 4 other cameras to better present the meeting activities
- As much of the upgrades are also to enhance accessibility for all residents, Council Chambers is also equipped with assisted listening devices and

attendees who need such services should contact the City in advance of the session

- Delegates may also be provided with a wireless microphone if required
- When it comes to the recorded vote process, there will be more clarity for the public achieved through electronic applications. Councilors can now vote by pressing a button and final votes can then be displayed for public viewing
- The sound system allows the Mayor and City Clerk to manage the flow of the meeting by using a priority queue system for speakers
- As the City of Cambridge is known for its environmental leadership, the new system will move to a paperless agenda using the iCompass system. Council and staff now have the ability to bring their laptops to work with electronic meeting agendas - thus allow us to begin to reduce the amount of paper used and reducing the carbon footprint
- The Council Chambers lighting and blind controls can also be controlled by the City Clerk to ensure that presentations are clear for the public.

"We often had sound quality issues in the Council Chambers during meetings where it was important for the public to hear, as well as see the items on the agenda," says Mayor Craig. "The new system is designed to enhance the experience for all participants and to effectively meet our need today and beyond 2020," adds Mayor Craig.

The prominent tower of Historic City Hall has world-wide distinction. The clock was installed in 1897 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria and is located in the upper reaches of the stone section of the tower completed in 1858. It is said that there are only two clock mechanisms like it in the world. A wooden structure at the top of the tower was added in 1863 to house the building's bell. Inside the tower is a history lesson in itself with signatures of visitors who made the trek to the top, when it was still open to the public.

The original architect for Historic City Hall (formerly Town Hall) was H. B. Sinclair and partner R. Burrows. William Graham was project manager and on May 13, 1857 the first cornerstone was laid by the Mayor of the new Town of Galt, Morris Lutz. As part of the ceremony a "time capsule" containing, among other things, a list of prominent local people and institutions, by-laws and a number of coins were placed in the cornerstone. No trace of the capsule was found during extensive renovations that were carried out in 1965 and 1990.

Sneak peaks of the building were held on February 11th and 12th as part of the Heritage Day celebrations. It was also a time to celebrate the project partnerships: historical architectural consultant, E.R.A Architects; architect, Diamond & Schmitt Architects; structural engineer, Read Jones Christofferson; mechanical and electrical consultants, MCW Consultants; general contractor, PM Contracting Ltd.; audio visual system, Applied Electronics Ltd; drywall & acoustics, Victorian Details; flooring, Decortile; elevator, Delta Elevator; doors & frames, Great Lakes Architectural; interior roller shades, Solarfective Products; lead coat copper downspouts, RJ Steel Co.; historic masonry, Facet Group; masonry, Doug George Masonry; mechanical, MBI Mechanical; millwork, CCW; misc metal, Vandepas Welding;

historic painting, Twins Painting & Decorating; painting, R&S Painting; wood floor refinisher; Len Koebel Flooring; and Concrete cutting, Complete cutting and Coring.

Cambridge City Council will hold its first public meeting (general committee) in the historic building on February 22nd, 2010. The first official City Council meeting will occur the following Monday, on March 1st. Wedding ceremonies will also move back to Historic City Hall and details on booking the facility can be found online at www.cambridge.ca or by calling Clerk's division at 519.740.4680 ext. 4234.

An official opening to celebrate with the community is planned for June to further showcase the building and share the success of the renovated public space with the community.

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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.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca

The City of Cambridge press room is located at

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