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**For Immediate Release****Students Imagine Architectural Updates to Old Spaces**

Cambridge, Ontario. April 7, 2010...Imagine what you could do if you could revamp old spaces. The old is new again is the theme of a showcase at Cambridge City Hall this week as a group of second year Conestoga College students unveil their designs on adaptive reuse.

The students, who are in the college's architectural project and facility management program, have been studying how old buildings can be put to new uses. As a class exercise, they have been working with staff at the Cambridge Fire Hall Museum and Education Centre located at 56 Dickson Street. They've measured and photographed every aspect of the historic Galt fire hall building and have then explored possible new uses for the building which are now on display in the Atrium of City Hall. Among the designs the students have come up with are converting the museum into a restaurant, a dance studio or upscale men's clothing store.

"The process of transforming old structures for new uses, or adaptive reuse, is especially important in a community like Cambridge," says Bo Densmore, Director of the City's Economic Development Division. "As industrial buildings become available in the downtown cores, we are seeing more conversions of these amazing spaces into multi-use facilities such as commercial enterprises or residential opportunities."

A prominent and successful transformation project for Cambridge is the site for the University of Waterloo's School of Architecture. Located on the west bank of the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River, it forms the northern gateway into the historic Galt downtown and was once the Riverside Silk Mills, a dominant element of the local economic landscape. The original mill, announced in 1919 at a cost \$25,000, was an "L" shaped structure with the shorter wing running from Melville Street to the edge of the river and the other arm running along the river parallel to Melville.

"Reuse and recycling of our heritage buildings play a vital role in maintaining healthy and vibrant cities especially in our downtowns," says Ron Bean, Professor, Architecture Project and Facility Management, School of Engineering and Information Technology at Conestoga. Conestoga offers a four-year degree program in Architecture Project and Facility Management which is now in its seventh year.

The students' work, which is on display between now and Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, coincidentally ties in with the presentation slated for Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

by developer David Gibson to members of the Downtown Cambridge Business Improvement Association in the Toyota Room of the Cambridge Centre for the Arts.

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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, lotteries, marriage, dogs, and other services like applications for birth, death and marriage 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](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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