

For Immediate Release

## Youth Groups 'Making a Difference' Kick-Off to Environmentally Focused Seminar

Cambridge, Ontario. May 5, 2010... Amazing things happen when people come together for a common purpose. The Youth Advisory Committee of Council (YACC) in Cambridge, along with the Special Projects Enhancing Community (SPEC), tomorrow will kick-off a series of initiatives designed to make a difference.

It's the first big thing that the YACC group is coordinating since its re-establishment in 2010 through a Council directive. The initiative begins with two community clean-ups followed by a half-day conference that covers everything from recycled artwork to environmental planning and transit options. The Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Foundation is a sponsor of the conference.

"It's wonderful to see groups like YACC, SPEC and the community foundation coming together to build awareness and demonstrate that individuals can make a difference in their community," says Councillor Rick Cowsill, a representative of YACC.

### Litter Clean-Ups

Some twenty members of YACC and SPEC will commence with a litter clean-up at Cambridge City Hall beginning at 5:00 pm on **Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Churchill Park will be the location of the next clean-up scheduled for **Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm**. Bags and gloves will be provided and the groups are encouraging members of the community, particularly our youth, to join in the 'Making a Difference' initiative. The team will also unveil details of the conference slated for later this month.

### Conference

On **Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>**, the conference will start at 12:00 noon with registration and networking. The day is sure to provide a mix of thought provoking information and an opportunity to delve into subjects that empower people. Highlights include taking action with City Green and Community Garden Council of Waterloo Region in creating and maintaining a community garden to keynote remarks from Paul Parker, the University of Waterloo's Professor in the department of geography and environmental management.

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### **About the Youth Advisory Committee of Council**

The Youth Advisory Committee of Council (YACC) works in collaboration with the City of Cambridge Community Services Department to act as a positive, influential, and energetic voice raising awareness and organizing positive youth action within our community. In addition, YACC gives valuable input and is a positive advocate for youth programs, will help determine the effectiveness of existing programs and the establishment of new programs for youth, and help to actively seek input and involvement from youth, while improving communication and access of information regarding what is available for youth in Cambridge. Members include: Alissa Mitchell, Megan Beretta, Robyn-Lindsay Henderson, Yichen He, Jordan Langlois and Adam Mason. Rick Cowsill is Council's representative.

### **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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