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**For Immediate Release****Official Opening of Historic City Hall in Cambridge:  
A Transformation Melding Old and New Architecture Features**

Cambridge, Ontario. June 18, 2010...Cambridge City Council tonight officially cut the ribbon at Historic City Hall showcasing to the community the 21<sup>st</sup> century renovations. The stately historic building, first erected in 1858, was transformed through a \$5.7 million restoration project as part of the Conservation Master Plan program.

"We are so proud of this landmark building and its successful restoration represents the power of community collaboration," said Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig.

The Conservation Master Plan process involved Toronto-based firms ERA Architects Inc. and Diamond and Schmitt Architects in conjunction with the master plan committee made up of community members, staff and representatives from The Ontario Heritage Trust and The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. The process concluded in May 2007 which involved a number of phases in which to tackle the upgrade: phase one, completed in 2008, featured construction of a slate roof and building code components; phase two saw the completion of a glass link that ensured accessible access; and finally, the final phase supported by PM Contracting brought all the technological elements together, particularly for Council Chambers, and in addition wrapped up the accessibility features with the installation of elevators and lifts.

The multi-million dollar initiative was completed on-time and on-budget, a continued track record for both city hall projects.

"The City met the challenge to preserve and repair the existing structure while bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by adding technology and modern architectural features like the glass link that runs between old and new city hall," said Bob Paul, Director of Facilities Management & Development for the City.

The town hall site was acquired by William Dickson, a Niagara-based magistrate and lawyer in July 1816. The original building (which was later moved) was a one-story frame structure built in City Hall square by Alex Scrimger in 1838. As early as 1839, the building served as a location for township meetings because at that time the Township of North Dumfries formed part of the equation with regard to land purchase. Within 20 years, the decision was made to erect a new city hall which is what stands today. The architect and builders of the

new building were H.B. Sinclair and R. Burrows and the project was led by William Graham. The corner stone was laid by Mayor Morris C. Lutz on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1857 and the new town hall was completed about 18 months later.

The prominent tower of Historic City Hall was erected in 1863 and later in 1897 the clock was installed to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria. There are only two clock mechanisms like it in the world according to records. The wooden structure at the top of the tower was later added in 1863 for the bell.

The landmark is a prominent part of the Cambridge community. Although City Council held its first public meeting of general committee on February 22, 2010, today's ribbon cutting ceremony serves to recognize the project partners: historical architectural consultant, ERA Architects; architect, Diamond and 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 and acoustics, Victorian Details; flooring, Decortile; elevator, Delta Elevator; doors and 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; miscellaneous 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.

"It's wonderful to see this significant heritage building return to its original use," said Principal Architect Gary McCluskie of Diamond and Schmitt Architects. "Throughout the project, we were sensitive to the important role Historic City Hall plays for the City of Cambridge and have brought many functional aspects of the building into the 21st-century while respecting its past."

The City's archive services ([archives@cambridge.ca](mailto:archives@cambridge.ca)) are located at Historic City Hall as well as the Hall of Fame. The 46 Dickson Street building is also available to the public for wedding ceremonies. Details on booking the facility are found online at [www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca) or by calling Clerk's division at 519-740-4680 ext. 4234.

High resolution images of Historic City Hall are found in the corporation's photo gallery at <http://www.cambridge.ca/gallery/36>

-30-

#### About the Technology At Historic City Hall

Technological advancement for audio/visual in addition to the infrastructure enhancements include:

- 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.

#### 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](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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