



For Immediate Release

Johnson Centre Open House -Community Celebration First Known Poolside Green Wall Part of the Eco-Friendly Mix

Cambridge, Ontario. October 15, 2010...Join us to witness the first known green wall installed poolside as Cambridge City Council and the team at the W.G. Johnson Centre host a community celebration to mark a significant milestone in the renovation process.

On Friday, October 15th at 5:00 pm join us for a family celebration as we showcase the new pool and all the green sustainable design elements that will refresh the 1968 Kribs Street building. There's cake, face painting, free environmentally-friendly water bottles (while supplies last), a bouncy castle and popcorn to enjoy. Of course, no pool visit would be complete without a swim - and the City is offering a free swim between 5:35 pm - 7:00 pm (pool capacity is 157 people).

The Johnson Centre is undergoing \$3.8 million in renovations under the multi-government Economic Stimulus partnership. Expected to be 90 per cent complete by December 2010, the pool services element of the renovations includes a trend-setting poolside 20 ft X 10 ft green wall with 600 plants.

"The integration of a green wall into a poolside setting is a first that we know of and one that is being closely monitored by other facility operators looking to improve over all air quality by installing this unique bio-filter system. Over all, it was a remarkable feat to complete the aquatics area in just four months," says Bob Paul, Director of Facility Management and Development for Cambridge.

The upgrades not only involved replacing the pool, but there were significant improvements to the water treatment system which resulted in superior circulation, water and air quality. Another feature is a new dehumidification system which will result in overall reduction of humidity levels preventing moisture damage to the building.

The pool opened to the public on October 1st however, construction for other elements of the 21,000 sq foot facility continue and include accessibility upgrades, parking lot improvements, and new pool change rooms. A geo-thermal heating system and new lighting is also part of the earth-friendly renovations for the community centre.

The economic stimulus program resulted in the project costs being equally shared between the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments.

"Our government is pleased to be investing in the W.G. Johnson Centre," says Minister of State, Science and Technology Gary Goodyear. "This project is creating construction jobs now and providing a recreational facility that families in Cambridge and nearby communities will enjoy for years to come.

"The newly renovated Johnson Centre will be an excellent community site in the region and the Government of Ontario is pleased to be investing with the city in this exciting project," says John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and MPP for Kitchener Centre.

While there are still finishing touches to be done to other elements of the facility, pool services including regular programming are in full swing.

"We are already getting tremendous feedback from the public who have visited since we opened the aquatics area a few weeks ago," says Paula Ridge, Area Recreation Manager. "We are excited to showcase the enhancements this Friday to the community as a whole." She notes the renovations are still ongoing and appreciates peoples' understanding that the construction phases are winding down.

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A special thanks to Hespeler Tim Horton's and Cold Stone Creamery for helping to sponsor the event.

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A number of building partners will be on hand including the construction Management firm:
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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 2007, the population reached over 125,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a 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 <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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