

For Immediate Release

## May is Building Safety Month City of Cambridge Program Raises Awareness



Cambridge, Ontario. April 26, 2011... Recognizing the important role and impact of development in the City, the City of Cambridge is getting involved in marking International Building Safety Month in May by rolling out a school education program. The program is also a great way to kick off the building season as residents begin to think of spring projects such as decks and fences, and want support in understanding the permit process.

### Taking the Message to Students

Dennis Purcell, Manager of Municipal Building Officials at the City of Cambridge, says among the topics he will be discussing with the kids are the history of the building code, regulations in Ontario, and the role of inspectors.

"The conversations with students will focus on raising awareness and will share some important information, engage teens in the building process and give them some food for thought on building-related career paths," he says.

The building code sets minimum standards for design and construction of all new buildings or those being altered. It has been in place since 1976 and although its provincial legislation, local municipalities are responsible for enforcement of the Building Code Act. The unified code of standards is designed to improve safety and minimize risks to the health and welfare of citizens. This consistent standard is a reminder to always "Build it by the Book".

"It's all about the safety of buildings and their occupants," Purcell affirms.

### Building Activity Up in Cambridge

The City of Cambridge performs a number of services through the Planning Services Department including inspections, By-law enforcement and issuance of permits. Each year, the city performs inspections to support development; there were 31,466 inspections in 2009 and 30,480 in 2010. For example,

between 2005 and 2010, there were over 3,350 residential units (singles, semi-detached, apartments, row houses and conversions) undertaken in the City.

“The City of Cambridge is a strategic place to invest and while the nation has experienced an economic downturn in the last few years, we are pleased to see the strength of our local market. It’s picking up again,” says Janet Babcock, Commissioner of Planning Services.

From January to March 2011, the value of construction in Cambridge for residential and non-residential (institutional, commercial) has already surpassed \$145.5 million. This compares to the 2010 year end total of about \$35.3 million. Significant progress on institutional development such as Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning is good news for the community. Plus, intensification and core area development continues to add vitality to the already dynamic community.

### **Green Design for New Business Park**

The City is also currently working on the Boxwood Industrial Park which will bring on approximately 214 acres of land (110 net acres) into the mix. The development will have a focus on sustainability; available parcels will be positioned for optimal use of solar alternative energy, designed with LED street lighting and have integrated walking trails for enhanced quality of life for the industrial park businesses, to name a few amenities for this exceptional investment opportunity.

“We are excited to be moving forward on the next stage of this city-owned industrial park. It is anticipated that construction will begin later this year to put the infrastructure in place,” says Bo Densmore, Director of Economic Development. Its strategic location next to Toyota and the Cambridge Business Park is also an attractive feature.

For more information on building codes, the permit process, and new investment opportunities, please visit the City of Cambridge website [www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca).

-30-

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 2010, the population was over 130,000 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. It’s about choice, options and value when you become part of the community.

You meet the nicest people in Cambridge. It’s a place that understands all about coming together. There is so much more to Cambridge than the beautiful lands created at the convergence of two rivers or its logistically perfect location in the heart of Ontario’s economic corridor. Cambridge is the coming together of people from diverse, close-knit and proud communities. The people of Cambridge ‘do the right thing’ by respecting history, family values, a sound work ethic, the arts, environment and advancement. A young city, Cambridge is a master of balancing the excitement and promise of the new with the historical significance and stability of the old. A place where coming together is just the start. Uniting together is what sets Cambridge apart. Undiscovered-Cambridge families and entrepreneurs get more for less, and sacrifice nothing.

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 potential 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 pressroom is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/pressroom>. To opt out of the news release distribution, please send an email to Linda Fegan [feganl@cambridge.ca](mailto:feganl@cambridge.ca).