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For Immediate Release

Stewardship Rangers and City of Cambridge Plant Trees for Trout In-stream Clean Up Planned

Cambridge, Ontario. August 5, 2011... Projects to improve the trout-bearing Mill Creek are planned for next week in Cambridge. The Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers will be planting indigenous species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers on Wednesday August 10th from 10:00am to 2:00pm (as well as conducting an in-stream clean up, removing in-stream rock dams, fixing erosion sites, and shoring up the banks of Mill Creek) at two locations in Soper Park.

"The City congratulates the Friends of Mill Creek and Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers for their contribution to creating a healthier stream in Cambridge through planting along its banks and performing in-stream clean ups of debris and litter," says Paul Willms, Environmental Planner for the City of Cambridge.

Members of the Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers will plant 10 large trees, 40 shrubs, and 30 wildflowers along Mill Creek as part of the 2011 projects that stretch into Puslinch Township and the headwaters.

The Mill Creek planting on August 10th caps off a successful year for the Cambridge Stewardship project, as well as a 5th anniversary for this community-based tree planting effort and a 12th anniversary for the Friends of Mill Creek. Cambridge Stewardship was initiated by Cambridge City Green in partnership with the City five years ago and 1,000 volunteers have planted over 5,000 indigenous trees, shrubs, and wildflowers at 14 sites across the city.

Funding partners for the 2011 Mill Creek project include: The City of Cambridge; Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation and the Ages Foundation; TD Friends of the Environment Foundation; Waterloo Stewardship Network; and Cambridge City Green. Over the past five years, these and Cambridge Stewardship's other generous funding partners contributed \$5 for every \$1 of City tax dollars in their support for the establishment of indigenous plants and a healthier environment in Cambridge.

In addition to the contributions of the funding partners, the volunteer planters put in "sweat equity." "Cambridge City Green volunteers, funding partners, and groups like the Mill Creek Rangers work hard on these projects which enhance our natural heritage," says Willms. "They come back over the years and are pleasantly surprised by the growth and change at these planting sites."

The mission of City Green's Cambridge Stewardship project is to establish indigenous trees, shrubs, and wildflowers across the city. Enhancing areas with native vegetation provides many benefits including groundwater recharge, shade through increased canopy (and therefore cooler temperatures for coldwater streams like Mill Creek), enhanced habitat, and increased biodiversity in an urbanizing landscape that has seen many invasive plant species recently established. But it's not just about the plants, it's about people and community development - by involving local schools, businesses, and community organizations like the Friends of Mill Creek and young people like the 17-year-olds employed as Stewardship Rangers this summer, people gain a better understanding of the ecosystems "in their backyard" and the benefits of a healthy local environment and urban rivers and streams.

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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 2010, the population reached 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 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.

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. The City of Cambridge press room 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.