



CAMBRIDGE'S NEW PERFORMANCE THEATRE DESIGNS UNVEILED

Celebrating a Milestone

February 4, 2011

CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO – Citizens of Cambridge got a sneak peak of the designs for the new performing arts complex today when MP Gary Goodyear, Mayor Doug Craig and members of the Cambridge City Council hosted an information event today.

“The Government of Canada is proud to have invested in this exciting project that will bring countless economic and cultural benefits to this region,” said Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) and Member of Parliament for Cambridge. “This new arts complex will boost tourism, create jobs, showcase local talent, and put Cambridge on the map as a world-class theatre destination for years to come.”

John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre, said the Ontario government's funding commitment is another example of a multi-governmental partnership that is bringing about change and fostering economic prosperity. "This project will benefit Waterloo Region as we create new jobs, support local arts, culture and tourism and help reposition our economy for future opportunities."

“The community information session allowed us to provide an important update to our community for this much anticipated development that will further spur arts and culture opportunities here while contributing to core area rejuvenation,” said Mayor Doug Craig. Craig credits the federal and provincial governments for their vision and leadership to support this project under the Building Canada Fund (BCF).

The 46 Grand Avenue location within the Galt downtown was selected as home to the new 500-seat theatre complex, along with consolidated administration offices, production, and support facilities for Drayton Entrainment. The total project cost is \$20.9 million, which also includes technical upgrades to several of Drayton Entertainment's existing Ontario venues. The governments of Canada and Ontario and the City of Cambridge have committed \$6 million each towards the total eligible project costs, with Drayton Entertainment responsible for the remaining funding. From the municipal allocation, \$5.1 million is in the budget this year for the 59,000 square foot Cambridge facility, while \$900,000 was budgeted from the City's 2010 Capital Budget to cover the costs associated with design.

Council endorsed the project and terms of reference in August 2009. The project was publicly tendered by the City of Cambridge in January 2010 and the architectural contact was awarded to Diamond and Schmitt Architects in June of that same year. Locally-based Melloul-Blamey Construction serves as construction managers for the development awarded through a public tender process in 2009. The construction schedule is shaping up as follows:

- February 04, 2011: community update and schematic design
- Mid-February: Commence Working Drawings

- Early April: Issuance of Site Plan Application
- Mid-June to Late June: Issuance of Permits
- Late-June to early July: Ground Breaking

“These plans are the culmination of discussions and due diligence with three levels of government,” said Alex Mustakas, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “Our plan has always been to develop a sustainable theatre that will service the social, cultural, and economic needs of the City of Cambridge, within a fiscally responsible budget. We believe this theatre design will blend with the beauty of Cambridge’s existing architecture by acknowledging the city’s rich and varied history, while also looking forward to its exciting future.”

Drayton Entertainment, a non-profit charitable organization, is one of Canada’s most successful professional theatre companies presenting to some 200,000 patrons each year at its six professional theatres in four Ontario communities. Cambridge’s complex is expected to be complete in late summer, 2012.

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For additional information about investments in infrastructure, visit www.creatingjobs.gc.ca.

For further information about Canada’s Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

For more information on how Ontario is revitalizing its infrastructure, visit ontario.ca/infrastructure.

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