

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Architects Propose Glassed Additions with Panoramic Views of City at Restoration of the Post Office Public Meeting

Cambridge, Ontario. July 11, 2014... City residents had an opportunity to ask questions and provide input into the schematic design for the Restoration at the Old Post Office project during a public meeting on Thursday.

Members of the community in attendance posed questions about the amount of the space for the library versus restaurant operations, the number of books on site, and plans for additional parking.

Greg Hayton, retired CEO of the library and now a consultant, commented that the building will offer a variety of learning resources and space for the community, not just books, to meet the needs of future demand.



The design concept unveiled by RDH Architects features glassed-in additions on the north and south ends of the building to

provide accessible entrances. While respecting the building's historic designation, the conceptual design proposed both restoration and adaptive re-use to account for a variety of multi-use community space with panoramic views of the city. A glass enclosed addition at the rear is being proposed to cantilever over the Grand River.

The reaction to the preliminary conceptual designs were positive with requests for additional information on how the building envelope will be preserved, parking and additional space being added to the original building.

“The questions we heard today are precisely what these public meetings are all about,” said Mayor Doug Craig.

“Within the constraints we have relating to planned uses, the footprint of the property and, of course money, we will incorporate the public’s views into the development plans to create a facility that serves the community well and instils civic pride,” he added.

“The input we gather from the public is invaluable to ensure that this important project meets the expectations of the public. We will look at that feedback when Council discusses the schematic designs on July 14 and advise the architects accordingly,” said CAO Gary Dyke.

The schematic design is the first step toward the repurposing of the 129-year-old building into a modern community library and resource centre that will include: a teen-managed space in the basement; a reading area; an outdoor terrace overlooking the Grand River; a restaurant on the main floor; a family discovery centre; an outdoor terrace on the second floor; and digital learning labs and a workshop on the third floor.

Originally the Galt Post Office, a two-and-a-half storey stone building on the east side of the Grand River at 12 ½ Water Street, it was designed by Thomas Fuller and constructed in 1885. Fuller was the Chief Dominion Architect and had a hand in the design of every major federal building from 1881 to 1896.

The Water Street building has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and was named as a National Historic Site, both in 1982.

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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. The population of Cambridge is approximately 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.

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