

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Cambridge Mayor talks recent achievements and making cities a national priority at 2016 State of the City address

Cambridge, Ontario. May 12, 2016... Earlier this morning, Mayor Doug Craig delivered his annual State of the City address at the Galt Country Club to a crowd of community and business leaders focusing on the need to make cities a national priority. Mayor Craig highlighted the strengths of our city, the success of current projects, planned future projects and spoke to the growing infrastructure gap faced by Canadian cities.

In his address, Mayor Craig described the importance of building a diverse economic ecosystem that balances quality of life, heritage, economic development, growth, and transportation and infrastructure.

"It's about a balance. We don't create jobs, we create the environment to attract industry and allow businesses to thrive in Cambridge providing economic opportunity" remarked Mayor Doug Craig.

Mayor Craig provided an overview on current projects including the digital library at the Old Post Office, the Cambridge multiplex, pedestrian bridge, and various core area developments that will enhance the quality of life for the community.

He also highlighted future projects including the Cambridge Mill hotel and condo expansion, the proposed residential development at the corner of King Street and Fountain Street in Preston, the Woollen Mill walkway in downtown Galt, the HIP Development in Hespeler Village and initiatives that will improve quality of life such as the adoption of the living wage and affordable housing developments.

The recent achievement in securing GO transit bus service between Cambridge and Milton was noted as a product of a successful collaboration among Waterloo Region mayors: Mayor Doug Craig, Mayor Dave Jaworsky and Mayor Berry Vrbanovic. Emphasizing the value of collaboration, Mayor Craig referenced the recent trade mission to California's Silicon Valley where Waterloo Region mayors and Toronto Mayor, John Tory, were able to promote Canada's innovation corridor on the international stage.

Mayor Craig also spoke to the need for Canadian cities to investigate new models of securing fiscal sustainability for municipalities to support vital infrastructure. With the downloading of federal and provincial responsibilities, Mayor Craig cited examples from the United States and Europe of possible models to address this issue. He spoke positively around our federal government's willingness to develop a plan to work with municipalities.

"The willingness of our federal government to discuss this very real issue facing municipalities is a significant

step forward for Canadian cities” explains Mayor Craig. “We’re optimistic that these types of discussions will highlight the importance of making cities a national priority and help us move forward developing a sustainable funding model”

Proceeds from the State of the City event benefit the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank.

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Primary Media Contact:

Shawn Falcao

Acting Manager of Communications

Corporate Services

City of Cambridge

falcaos@cambridge.ca

(519) 740-4683 ext. 4350 / cell: (519) 240-3751

About the City of Cambridge

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. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment focused on creativity and innovation, and offers opportunity for career growth and advancement.

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