

NEWMARKET CELEBRATES NEWLY RENOVATED COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WELCOMES LIONS CLUB TO THEIR NEW HALL

Newmarket, Ontario, December 10, 2011 - Government representatives joined community members in the Town of Newmarket today to celebrate the newly renovated Newmarket Community Centre & Lions Hall. This is the final phase of work to complete Newmarket's newest urban space, the Newmarket Riverwalk Commons (NRC).

Work on the final phase of the NRC included the renovation of Newmarket's Community Centre, a multi-use, two-room community hall, dedicated to housing year-round social, cultural and recreational activities. Features of this newly-renovated space include:

- Complete external refinishing
- New outdoor-accessible washrooms
- Small building addition for equipment
- New flooring (Halls 1 and 2)
- New windows
- Renovated kitchen with new equipment
- Reconfigurations of the interior space to make it fully accessible
- New ventilation equipment

Other highlights of the NRC urban park include an interactive water feature which transforms to a skating rink in the winter months, an outdoor performance area and various public spaces for a wide range of outdoor activities, including markets, concerts and community gatherings. The NRC is a year-round destination and a key link in connecting Fairy Lake Park to Newmarket's extensive trail system. It provides greater pedestrian access to the downtown, while supporting a variety of recreation and culture events.

"The new community centre and outdoor recreational features we are celebrating today as part of Newmarket's new urban space, are vital to the health of our communities," said Lois Brown, Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora. "The Town now has an accessible, modern facility dedicated to housing year-round sport, social and recreational activities, which will have a tremendous positive impact on local and surrounding communities."

"I'm delighted that our government has supported this renovation project, so families and residents of all ages can come together to be active, have fun and keep this community vibrant," said Dr. Helena Jaczek, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oak Ridges-Markham. "Ontario is making strategic infrastructure investments to stimulate our economy, support our communities and create jobs for Ontario families."

"Watching the transformation of this area was simply remarkable," says Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen. "The development of the Newmarket Riverwalk Commons was not just about creating a community space – it was about connecting a town. The revitalization of the Newmarket Community Centre & Lions Hall will further strengthen the role of the historic downtown as the cultural centre of the community. Without the financial support of the federal and provincial governments, our vision for this extraordinary urban space would not have been realized at this time."

The governments of Canada and Ontario have each committed over \$2 million to the project, while the Town of Newmarket contributed the balance. The total project cost was approximately

\$9.8 million. In April 2011, the Town of Newmarket announced that the Newmarket Lions Club - a cornerstone community group in town – would be investing \$400,000 to help offset the capital expenses of the renovations. As a result, the Newmarket Lions Club received the naming rights to refurbished Halls 1 and 2.

Federal and provincial contributions come from the Building Canada Fund, which represents a joint federal-provincial investment of more than \$6 billion to help communities across the province address key infrastructure needs. Since 2007, the governments of Canada and Ontario have committed more than \$13 billion in funding to more than 6,400 infrastructure projects across the province to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

To learn more about the Town of Newmarket's downtown revitalization initiatives, visit www.newmarket.ca and click on "I'd like to...discover downtown Newmarket."

-30-

Media contact:

Danielle Goodridge, Communications Specialist

Town of Newmarket

Tel: 905-953-5300, ext. 2043

Email: dgoodridge@newmarket.ca