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MAYOR CAMPION DELIVERS CITY ADDRESS AT ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Welland, ON - Mayor Frank Campion addressed a crowd of 100 people today at the Welland Public Library to deliver his annual year-in-review fundraiser and highlighted the city's growth and development agenda. Guests filled the library to enjoy a catered breakfast, with proceeds benefiting United Way Niagara.

Mayor Frank Campion was pleased to review last year's capital projects that make living in Welland more accessible and enjoyable. In conjunction with roads, sidewalks, and water infrastructure, city staff focused on better social infrastructure and connecting communities with the city's new BMX and Skateboard Park. The city also completed the Veteran's Memorial section at Woodlawn Cemetery and made progress in connecting Niagara through inter-municipal transit. Campion was pleased to report the city invested more than \$8.5 M in infrastructure renewal last year.

Other city highlights included record breaking economic development and building activity. The city also issued a record number of building permits in 2018 and sold \$9.2 M in city owned land. Campion credited the city's economic development team for fostering a relationship with developers and builders and simplifying bureaucratic procedures.

Mayor Campion covered the city's 2018 achievements and finished the presentation with a glimpse of where the City of Welland is going over the next several years. Population forecasts project an influx in new residents; therefore, managing and maintaining growth will be a city priority. Campion told his audience that the city exceeded expectations in 2018, and intends to further surpass goals well into the future by maintaining strong economic development, stimulating job growth, investing in the Welland Recreational Corridor, and providing a quality of life second-to-none.

"We want to prepare for the future and protect the livability and workability in our city," said Mayor Frank Campion. "We don't want to just build blocks of suburbia. We want to create communities, while we embrace our small town approach, and enjoy city amenities."

For more information on United Way Niagara, its programs and support services visit unitedwayniagara.org. For more information on City of Welland programs, services, and projects visit welland.ca.

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