

**MEDIA RELEASE****Wednesday, June 13, 2018****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Grand opening of Memorial Square & Meridian Place set for June 29**

(Barrie, ON) The stage is set for the official openings of both Memorial Square & Meridian Place. Memorial Square is now ten times larger, allowing it to accommodate larger ceremonial events. The cenotaph has also been relocated to make it the central focus of the square. Meridian Place is a multi-use public space that connects the downtown with Barrie's beautiful waterfront. Located in the heart of Downtown Barrie, it will play host to festivals, events, concerts, plays, activities and more.

Memorial Square Grand Opening

On June 29 at 10:30 a.m. dignitaries and representatives from the Downtown Barrie BIA, City of Barrie, CFB Borden, the Barrie Legion, Grey and Simcoe Foresters will help to officially open Memorial Square. A parade will begin on Collier Street, travel down Owen Street and arrive at the cenotaph. Sacred soil from Vimy Ridge will be laid to rest in a dedicated memorial monument next to the cenotaph. This soil is symbolic of the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. The public is welcome to attend this free event, experience a WWII aircraft flyby and pay tribute to our military heritage.

Meridian Place Grand Opening

On June 29 at 5 p.m. the Downtown Barrie BIA and City of Barrie will host the first party at the highly anticipated Meridian Place. The public is welcome to attend this free event to celebrate the new public space in the heart of Downtown Barrie.

The event will include a ribbon cutting, cake cutting, public tours of the new space and live music featuring Sonic Coalition and the Fred Grant Squares.

About the project:

Construction at the site started in June 2017. The City of Barrie, Downtown Barrie BIA and Meridian shared the total \$3.8 million cost of the project. Meridian paid for exclusive naming rights of the space that stretches from the Memorial Square cenotaph area to Simcoe Street for a period of 25 years. The agreement allows for the cenotaph area to continue to be known as Memorial Square. The name Meridian Place was chosen through Meridian's *Name your City Space* online vote, in which Barrie residents were asked to pick their favourite name from a list of three options.

To learn more about Memorial Square & Meridian Place, visit meridianplace.downtownbarrie.ca

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