



RECREATION AND CULTURE
SERVICES
MEMORANDUM

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TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: S. LEE YOUNG, MANAGER OF RECREATION AND CULTURE PROGRAMS, EXT: 5166

NOTED: B. ROTH, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND CULTURE SERVICES
D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: RECREATION AND CULTURE ONLINE ACTIVITIES, ALL

DATE: MAY 4, 2020.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has kept Barrie residents physically separated, it has also brought the community closer together through this unique experience. Neighbours have rallied together to support one another and Recreation and Culture Services is looking at various ways to continue to help strengthen our community.

Recreation and Culture Services have been working with Access Barrie to develop an initiative, ***Together at Home***, which is an assortment of online content to provide residents with weekly jam-packed activities to beat boredom and lift spirits. Together at Home will contain short videos being produced by Recreation and Culture Services staff that will feature games, crafts, cooking, brain teasers, and more! All activities are easily accessible, can be completed at home and designed to help keep all ages of our community entertained. Focus will be placed on children's activities, to assist in taking a load of parents and guardians. In addition to the videos there will be a variety of other activities such as colouring sheets, backyard bingo cards and much more.

Online content will be available as of Monday May 4th at Barrie.ca/recreation. Recreation and Culture Services has also launched Seniors Centres without Walls, a free interactive telephone-based program that connects and enables seniors to be social, informed and connected during this difficult time. Participants join in for free, in general conversations and make new and meaningful friendships – all from the comfort of their home! It works just the same as attending a class or a lecture at the centre, but instead it is facilitated over the telephone.

The benefits of Recreation for good mental health are well documented. During times like these, the services Recreation and Culture provides can make a great impact within our community as we all work together through this stressful time. We are hoping this initiative will provide some light and levity as we all work through this pandemic together. For more information please visit barrie.ca/recreation.