



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Barrie launches public consultation to review ward boundaries

Barrie, ON – The City of Barrie is undergoing a comprehensive review of its ward boundaries. This review aims to help City Council decide whether to maintain the current ward structure or adopt a new one. The primary goal of the review is to ensure that each ward in Barrie has a balanced population, which is crucial for fair and effective representation in the municipal government. This is especially important as Barrie's population continues to grow and change.

"As Barrie continues to grow, it is essential that our ward boundaries reflect our evolving community," said Wendy Cooke, City Clerk. "This review is about ensuring fair representation for all residents so that every voice is heard equally at City Council."

The population of Barrie has been steadily increasing, with the 2021 census reporting approximately 153,000 residents, a nearly 12% increase since the last review. This growth requires a review to ensure that the ward boundaries continue to provide equitable representation.

Get Involved

Residents are encouraged to participate in the review process by visiting buildingbarrie.ca/wardsreview to learn more and take an online survey.

Residents can also attend one of the upcoming in-person consultation sessions:

March 18: 2:00 – 3:30 PM & 6:00 to 7:30 PM at Barrie City Hall Rotunda (1st floor, 70 Collier Street)
March 20: 2:00 – 3:30 PM at Barrie City Hall Rotunda (1st floor, 70 Collier Street)

A Brief History of Barrie's Electoral System

- **1870:** Barrie was incorporated as a Town.
- **1959:** Barrie became a City.
- **1982:** Barrie has been governed by a council of 11 members (10 councillors and the Mayor elected at-large).
- **1995:** The current 10-ward system was established, with one councillor elected from each ward.
- **2013:** The last ward boundary review was conducted to achieve greater population parity.

For more information, please visit www.buildingbarrie.ca/WardsReview.

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For more information, please contact:

Scott LaMantia
Manager of Marketing & Communications
scott.lamantia@barrie.ca
705-794-0517