

BARRIE CITY COUNCIL - NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2024

By: Tyneisha Thomas

When I first became Barrie's Poet Laureate I vowed to be the "Peoples Poet"

Not just because I liked a crown being placed on my head and the prestigious title being given to me, but because being a voice for people who often are not heard or listened to is important to me.

As the people's poet I can speak up for the ones who were silenced and turned voiceless,
As the people's poet my words can bring purpose to the ones who thought their journey in life was pointless.

Although I often read alone, I am a voice representing our community – a voice consisting of many important identities.

The single mothers, the divorced, the immigrants, the minorities, the disabled people both physically and mentally -

I am a voice that can bring hope to all the beautiful souls living in our community.

So when I write or speak, it's not just about me...

Its about how I can use this voice to bring us all closer together like a family.

Through poetry, I will lead the many who choose to follow me;

To a place engulfed in equality, diversity, love and kindness.

A place where we chose to move forward with positivity and forgiveness.

I write with hope, because we live in a word that is often covered in hopelessness.

I read my poems out loud because I've often felt silenced.

But through all the pain, and all the darkness that can be experienced in life... I still choose to write!

Writer's block cannot stop me,

Writer's block cannot and will not stop me,

Because I am the people's poet.

And it is never just about me, I do not write poetry selfishly.

I write to inspire, I write to uplift

I write to ignite the fire within the citizens in Barrie who feel as though they have lost it.

I write for my daughter, and all the children and youth being raised here.

Each generation has a responsibility to the next, so I write with conviction, intention is found in my text.

I write so that my daughter and the youth may grow and eat ripe fruit, right here.

I write because I choose to live and run to the light, instead of walking in fear.

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Thank you