



**RECREATION AND CULTURE  
SERVICES  
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 1  
File: R06  
Pending #:

---

**TO: MAYOR, J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: R. BELL, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND CULTURE SERVICES**

**NOTED: D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: NEW YEARS EVE PROGRAMMING**

**DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2021**

---

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update regarding the City of Barrie's plans for New Year's Eve.

Since 1998, the Downtown Countdown has brought thousands of residents and visitors together in downtown Barrie to celebrate the arrival of a new year. The COVID-19 pandemic and the timing of the announcement for lifting restrictions has prevented the City from hosting a traditional Downtown Countdown event. This year's event will focus on activating our Downtown and Neighbourhood Community Centres over the Holiday season, for a fun and exciting new experience.

To kick off the New Year's Eve festivities, Holly Community Centre will host a Winter Wonderland themed menu of programming. Activities will include:

- Family skating;
- Outdoor bonfires and Muskoka chairs and so much more; and
- This location will also host a spectacular Ice skating show by our local Mariposa Skating Club.

East Bayfield Community Centre will host a Holiday Movie themed menu of programming. Activities will include:

- Family arts and crafts;
- Family skates; and
- buskers and so much more.

The Circle at the Centre rink outside of City Hall will host a family skating party theme. Highlights include:

- A live DJ;
- LED light décor;
- Lightshow; and
- The rink at Centennial Park will feature skating for families to enjoy.

Meridian Square will play host to an interactive light display this year called the Island of Warmth from December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to January 3, 2022. Interactive features include:

- Gathering around a large fire made of 154 incandescent light bulbs;
- An electrifying campfire that comes to life to music that is composed specially for the occasion;
- It allows visitors to generate the fire's sounds and movements through sensors placed under the floor of the platform;
- As visitors dance and jump, they kindle the embers, fan the flames and send sparks flying. Flames leap and swirl, creating warmth, light, smoke, and music; and



**RECREATION AND CULTURE  
SERVICES  
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 2  
File: R06  
Pending #:

- 
- The Island of Warmth reaches its peak when everyone around it moves in sync, turning the installation into a symphony for the eyes and ears.

On New Year's Eve, Barrie Transit will offer free transit starting at 3:00 p.m. until the end of regular service for this year. Please visit [myridebarrie.ca](http://myridebarrie.ca) for live bus tracking and scheduling.

To close out our family New Year's Eve events we will host a wonderful fireworks display over Kempenfelt Bay at 9pm. Please note no fireworks show will take place at midnight this year.

For more information about New Year's Eve and other exciting activities happening over the holiday season visit [www.barrie.ca/HappyHolidays](http://www.barrie.ca/HappyHolidays)