



**RECREATION AND CULTURE
SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 1
File: R00
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 POST EVENT UPDATE

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2022

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update regarding the City of Barrie's New Year's Eve event that took place on December 31, 2021.

Since 1998, the Downtown Countdown has brought thousands of residents and visitors together in downtown Barrie to celebrate the arrival of a new year. As case numbers of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant continued to increase, this prevented the City from hosting a traditional Downtown Countdown event and resulted in the addition of increased safety precautions, in order to hold a modified in-person activities safely. This year's festivities focused on activating our Downtown and Neighbourhood Community Centres over the Holiday season for a fun and exciting new experience.

The New Year's Eve festivities kicked off at Holly Community Centre which hosted Winter Wonderland themed programming that included family skating, and a spectacular ice skating show by our local Mariposa Skating Club. East Bayfield Community Centre hosted Holiday Movie themed programming that included family skating, and a themed take home craft kit.

The Circle at the Centre outdoor rink at City Hall hosted a family skating party that included a live DJ and lightshow, fun LED décor and some amazing vendors. The skating party received a lot of positive feedback from the public and requests to be held more often.

To close out our family New Year's Eve festivities, the City hosted a wonderful fireworks display over Kempenfelt Bay at 9 p.m.

The Recreation and Culture Team was able to provide enjoyment to 240 residents at the Circle at the Centre, and 150 at Centennial Park outdoor ice rink over the course of the evening, while managing the Provincial and local health and safety related capacity restrictions. Holly Community Centre had a total of 174 residents and East Bayfield had a total of 102 residents attend the different activities over the course of the afternoon. The fireworks was enjoyed by many more residents safely, given the visibility from all around the Bay, which reduced gathering along with the encouragement to watch from vehicles.

