MEDIA RELEASE **Thursday, February 17, 2022**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council approves $300,000 in funding for recreation and sport grant

(Barrie, ON) – City Council has approved $300,000 in funding for a pilot Recreation and Sport Community Grant Program to provide money to eligible sport or recreation organizations in Barrie for programs, events or capital improvements.

“Recreation opportunities in Barrie are world-class and support our vibrant community and the health and well-being of our residents,” says Mayor Jeff Lehman. “I’m excited to see how organizations use this funding opportunity to provide more access to recreation and sports in our city.”

Once the program has launched, organizations can apply for funding from one of two categories: programming to support new or innovative recreation and sport opportunities (including public workshops or one-time events), or capital improvement projects (including major asset purchases, renovations, or infrastructure repairs).

“The need for this program was clear; prior to this grant, there was no way to evaluate these types of funding requests and their benefit to the community,” says Dan Bell, Manager of Business Services. “This program provides a solution that’s fair, transparent, and will ultimately build participation and engagement in recreation and sport.”

Administered through the City’s Recreation & Culture Services department, the 2022 grant application process is expected to begin in early March, and applications will be accepted until the end of March. There will be no prescribed dollar amount limit on application requests. The grant will be administered annually, with the total amount dispersed each year based on overall interest in the program from eligible applicants, up to the maximum grant funding allocation in the City's budget as determined by City Council.

Once launched, applications will be available through the City’s online application tool at barrie.ca/APLI.

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For more information, please contact:
Scott LaMantia
Senior Communications Advisor
scott.lamantia@barrie.ca
705-794-0517

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