



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City invites public to learn more about potential new stormwater funding model**

(Barrie, ON) On **Thursday, October 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.** the City of Barrie will host the second public information meeting to discuss the potential development of a stormwater climate action fund. A stormwater climate action fund would help mitigate flooding and protect Lake Simcoe and ground water sources. The proposed new funding model would shift costs from property taxes onto a more equitable user fee. At this virtual meeting, staff will provide more details on the funding model and outline incentive programs to encourage property owners to manage their stormwater more sustainably. The meeting will be held on Zoom and residents can participate by computer, smartphone device or phone (audio-only). You must register in advance at [buildingbarrie.ca/stormwater-climate-action-fund](http://buildingbarrie.ca/stormwater-climate-action-fund) to attend.

Stormwater management includes manholes, catch basins, storm sewers, stormwater management ponds, creeks and more. This system requires maintenance and upgrading, which is costly. When it rains or when snow melts from your roof or driveway, the water that does not soak into the ground makes its way through the City's stormwater management system.

Climate change will increase rainfall intensities that can lead to costly flooding, increased erosion and negative impacts on natural waterbodies. More water through our stormwater system means more maintenance and upgrades—which is why a new funding model is being explored.

Currently Barrie's stormwater program is funded through municipal taxes. The current proposal is to move stormwater funding from the taxes to a new funding model—which is something many municipalities have done. This new model will be based on average impervious area for a given residential property type (i.e. detached homes vs. condominiums) and measured impervious areas for non-residential properties (e.g. commercial, institutional and industrial). An impervious area is a hard surface such as concrete, asphalt or rooftops that do not absorb water.

If you are unable to attend the live meeting on October 14, the recording, a copy of the presentation along with a survey will be available at [buildingbarrie.ca/stormwater-climate-action-fund](http://buildingbarrie.ca/stormwater-climate-action-fund). The survey will be open until October 28, 2021. A Staff Report will be presented to General Committee on November 15, 2021.

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Scott LaMantia  
Senior Communications Advisor  
[scott.lamantia@barrie.ca](mailto:scott.lamantia@barrie.ca)  
705-794-0517