



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **City achieves HIGH FIVE Accreditation for kids' recreation programs**

(Barrie, ON) – The City of Barrie has achieved HIGH FIVE Accreditation, Canada's highest recognized quality standard for children's recreation programs. Developed by Parks and Recreation Ontario, the accreditation acknowledges the Recreation Department's focus on healthy child development in all aspects of operations, from programming to policies and risk management. All City staff involved in delivering children's recreation programs complete the HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development Training.

"This is an incredible achievement and I'm so proud of our recreation team. HIGH FIVE is about putting kids first and offering the highest levels of quality and safety in our programs," said Steve Lee Young, Manager of Recreation Programs. "At the City of Barrie, all kids' recreation programs are delivered by trained, caring leaders who place an emphasis on helping participants make new friends, feel stimulated through play, build confidence through learning new skills, and feel like part of the team through active participation."

The City's Spring/Summer Recreation Guide was delivered to Barrie residents in today's edition of the Barrie Advance. The guide includes hundreds of affordable programs for all ages and abilities from summer camps and swimming lessons to dance and fitness classes. Registration opens Tuesday, February 26.

Copies of the guide are available for pick-up at City recreation facilities, Barrie Public Libraries and City Hall, or view it online via [www.barrie.ca/RecGuide](http://www.barrie.ca/RecGuide).

#### **About HIGH FIVE:**

HIGH FIVE is Canada's comprehensive quality standard for children's programs and holds true to the following five Principles of healthy child development that our research indicates are essential for providing a positive experience for kids: A Caring Adult, Friends, Play, Mastery and Participation. HIGH FIVE consists of Training and Development, Program Assessments, Policies/Procedures, and Awareness. [www.HIGHFIVE.org](http://www.HIGHFIVE.org)

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**About Barrie** – Barrie is an exciting, caring and progressive community that 147,000 people call home. Situated 90 km north of the Greater Toronto Area on beautiful Kempenfelt Bay, Barrie offers an excellent life style and multitude of recreational opportunities. We are committed to the growth of prosperity of Central Ontario's leading City and most dynamic waterfront community.