



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Barrie will ring in New Year with Kim Mitchell**

(Barrie, ON) Kim Mitchell will headline the City's 20<sup>th</sup> annual *Downtown Countdown* event on New Year's Eve. This year's free celebration will once again feature an amazing line-up of Canadian talent that is not to be missed.

"In partnership with Rock 95 and 107.5 Kool FM, the City of Barrie is excited to welcome Canadian rock icon Kim Mitchell to headline the *Downtown Countdown*," said Arin Donnelly, Community Event Coordinator. "With classic tunes like 'Go for Soda' and 'Patio Lanterns', his show in Barrie on New Year's Eve will have us all singing along to his greatest hits."

Kim Mitchell has won three JUNO Awards and achieved gold and multi-platinum status over his career, from his time as lead of Canadian rock band *Max Webster* in the 70s to a long and successful solo career. Mitchell continues to perform hits like 'Rock 'n Roll Duty' with creative energy and enthusiasm. This year's event will also include a special tribute to *The Tragically Hip* from leading tribute act, *Practically Hip*. Since 1997, *Practically Hip* has been wowing their audiences with a passionate and high energy show featuring The Hip's beloved hits.

Every year, the City of Barrie invites bands from Barrie and area to submit for the opportunity to perform on the *Downtown Countdown* stage. From over 40 submissions this year, *Rue Bella* has been selected to perform their genre-bending alternative rock. *Rue Bella* won Rock 95's Local & Loud 2016 competition, going on to play legendary venues like The Horseshoe Tavern and Lee's Palace, and opening for arena acts such as *The Trews* and *Finger Eleven*. They just released their first full-length album 'Flirt with the Dirt', produced by John-Angus MacDonald of *The Trews*.

The line-up will also feature entertainment for the younger crowd with Juno Award nominee and Canadian Folk Music Award winner, Chris McKhool. Hailed as a "Children's musical star" (National Post) and "Canada's greatest eco-troubadour for young people" (Mississauga Living Arts Centre), Chris will get kids singing and dancing! He has been delighting audiences with infectious songs and exotic world instruments for over two decades and has appeared on Mr. Dressup, Treehouse, TVOKids, and CBC Television and Radio. Joining Chris on stage at the *Downtown Countdown* will be members of multi-award-winning *Sultans of String*.

This year's free celebration outside City Hall in downtown Barrie will also include skating on the City Hall rink, horse-drawn wagon rides, roaming performers, fun family activities, and two fireworks displays. The festivities get underway starting at 6 p.m.

To stay up-to-date on event details including transit and parking, visit [www.barrie.ca/DowntownCountdown](http://www.barrie.ca/DowntownCountdown).

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