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**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: G. DIAMANTOPOULOS, MANAGER OF CORPORATE FACILITY SERVICES**

**NOTED: R. PEWS, P.ENG, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE FACILITIES**

**D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG PROGRAM**

**DATE: JANUARY 7, 2019**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update on the City's continued success in 2018 under the International Blue Flag Program. The City of Barrie Marina has been awarded "Blue Flag" status for the third year in a row.

The Blue Flag Program promotes sustainable development in freshwater and marine areas. It challenges local authorities and marina operators to achieve high standards in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety. There are only nine Blue Flag Marinas in Canada and The City of Barrie Marina is the only Blue Flag Marina on Lake Simcoe. The Blue Flag Program has become a highly respected and internationally recognized eco-label focused on bringing together the tourism and environmental sectors at local, regional and national levels. .

As part of the City's commitment to environmental stewardship, staff from Corporate Facilities, Environmental and Recreation Services Departments, along with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) have been working with Blue Flag organization representatives for the last three years to review and, where feasible, enhance policies, procedures and practices for the Barrie Marina and nearby beaches.