



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Friday, January 25, 2019**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Winterfest 2019 features Indigenous culture in special partnership with the Barrie Native Friendship Centre**

(Barrie, ON) The City of Barrie proudly presents Winterfest, one of the Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario, on February 2 and 3. This year, the City has partnered with the [Barrie Native Friendship Centre](#) in celebration of their 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

The Barrie Native Friendship Centre helps bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together to promote culture and community in the City of Barrie. Winterfest 2019 will highlight and celebrate the local Indigenous community through a number of events and programming, including ice and snow sculptures, speakers, hoop dancing and cultural sharing.

Winterfest takes place February 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Heritage Park and Meridian Place with most activities being free to enjoy. There are also drop-in activities and events at indoor venues throughout the community all weekend.

#### **Outdoor fun**

- Ice and snow sculptures highlighting Clans of the local Indigenous community
- Battle of the Chainsaws (Saturday at 1 p.m.)
- Lumberjack shows
- Toronto Maple Leafs Mobile Fan Zone
- Winter sport demonstrations – snowshoeing and snowboarding
- Helicopter rides (\$)
- Snow Valley's mini tube slide
- Walking tour with Barrie's Town Crier
- Skating at the Heritage Park pond, City Hall, or Centennial Park
- Polar Bear Dip – free to participate and no pre-registration required
- Maple taffy samples
- Learn about the history of making maple syrup with the Barrie Native Friendship Centre
- Family entertainment with Team T & J

#### **Drop-in activities**

- Barrie Native Friendship Centre - Knowledge Keeper: Clan System and Clan Governance; Learn to Hoop Dance
- Barrie Public Library – Indigenous Speaker Series: Jennifer Podemski and Nookmis Learning Circle
- MacLaren Art Centre – Storytime, NFB film screenings, Family Workshop, and performance by the Simcoe Contemporary Dancers
- Grey & Simcoe Foresters' Regimental Museum Tour
- Toonie skates and swims at East Bayfield Community Centre, Allandale Recreation Centre, and Holly Community Centre



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### **Community events**

- Winterfest Pancake Breakfast – hosted by the Lion's Club of Barrie on Saturday morning at Collier Street United Church
- February Blues Festival – enjoy Jazz & Blues music in venues throughout the community
- Downtown Barrie's Hot Cocoa Trail – hot chocolate creations available at downtown cafes and eateries every weekend in February

### **Free Winterfest shuttle**

Winterfest offers a free Park 'n Ride Shuttle on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shuttle will pick up passengers on Coulter Street behind the Bayfield Mall at Barrie Transit stop #203, stopping on Bayfield Street at the Barrie Native Friendship Centre (stop #64 & #74) to hop on or off, and will drop off at the Downtown Transit Terminal.

### **Parking and road closure**

If you're driving, there's plenty of downtown and waterfront parking available within close walking distance, including the Collier Street Parkade – a fully accessible, seven-level parking facility with over 300 spots located on Collier Street between Owen and Clapperton Streets. Reminder: Barrie residents can park for free in waterfront lots when displaying a Resident Waterfront Parking Pass. Simcoe Street will be closed from Maple Avenue to Dunlop Street from 6 a.m. on February 2 to 6 p.m. on February 3.

For more information, including a full schedule of activities, times and locations, visit [www.barrie.ca/Winterfest](http://www.barrie.ca/Winterfest).

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### ***For more information, please contact:***

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