



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Fundraising campaign underway for public art piece at Meridian Place**

(Barrie, ON) The Barrie Public Art Committee (BPAC) is launching a fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$50,000 to match the funds generously donated by the family of the late Mr. Robert Hunter to commission a piece of public art that will be installed at Meridian Place.

"This generous offer from the Hunter family is an opportunity to celebrate Mr. Hunter's legacy and leverage matching funds from interested private donors to commission a unique work of contemporary art to enhance this high-profile gathering place in downtown Barrie," said Amanda Dyke, Culture Development Officer at the City of Barrie. "April 27 is International Sculpture Day so it's the perfect time to spark conversations about public art and how we ensure this piece helps generate community pride and creates a unique sense of place in downtown Barrie."

Robert (Bob) Hunter was born 1929 in Barrie and played a significant role in the community. Mr. Hunter was an active member of the Barrie Chamber of Commerce (serving as president in 1968) and the Barrie Rotary Club. He attended Barrie Central Collegiate where he played trumpet with the concert band led by W.A. Fisher. Mr. Hunter developed a lifelong passion for performing music and played in several bands including the Barrie Concert Band, the Baytowne Big Band, the Skyliners and The Bob Hunter Band. He felt strongly that there should be an outdoor facility on Barrie's waterfront where people could gather and enjoy live music. In 1999, shortly before his death, he and architect Millet Salter submitted a proposal to the Trillium Foundation to acquire funding for such a venue. Unfortunately, the project was not realized, but their ideas were quite similar in design and location to the outdoor band shell in Meridian Place.

The funds raised will be used for administrating a national call for submissions by artists, the competition process, creation of the commissioned work, installation costs, insurance, conservation and maintenance.

The City of Barrie is working in partnership with the BPAC, Downtown Barrie BIA and the Hunter family on the fundraising campaign and commissioning process for this public art project. Interested donors can contact Amanda Dyke at [amanda.dyke@barrie.ca](mailto:amanda.dyke@barrie.ca) or 705-739-4220 ext. 4593 for details.

For more information about this project, visit [barrie.ca/PublicArt](http://barrie.ca/PublicArt).

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