



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Jeff Lehman Named in Fast Company's Annual List of the 100 Most Creative People in Business

(Barrie, ON) Fast Company today announced its 10th annual list of the Most Creative People in Business. City of Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman made the list, which honours an influential and diverse group of 100 leaders from a vast range of global industries including tech, design, entertainment, health care, media, government, nonprofit, finance, food, and more.

The Most Creative People in Business list recognizes individuals whose work is not always quantifiable by numbers, but who are having a measurable impact. These scientists, executives, programmers, comedians, founders, designers, musicians, writers, and activists have accomplished something new this year within their field that's driving their industries forward and solving global and societal problems in novel ways.

"As a municipal leader, I'm honoured to be on this list. Only creativity and innovation can solve many of the complex challenges municipalities face," said Mayor Jeff Lehman. "As Mayor of Barrie I've worked to shift government from being reactive to proactive. It's my job to champion this change and create a culture that embraces doing things differently to improve our city for residents and businesses."

Under Mayor Lehman's leadership, the City of Barrie has strengthened its finances and saved money through innovation. Barrie is one of seven Ontario cities that helped create Alectra, the largest municipally-owned electricity utility in Canada. The City of Barrie's dividend from Alectra has grown from \$3 million to \$8 million in seven years. The City has delivered budget surpluses in nine out of 10 years. Surpluses in 2017 and 2018 were primarily by driving revenue. In 2018, Barrie had its best year ever for industrial construction with approximately \$45 million in Industrial Building Permits.

Mayor Lehman has championed the City's efforts to build safer and healthier neighbourhoods. Barrie Fire and Emergency Service is using data to improve its fire prevention activities and conduct targeted neighbourhood blitzes in high-risk areas. The City's RecAccess program allows more than 1,470 low income residents to access free recreation programs to help keep families healthy and active. Additionally, Barrie has had the lowest crime index in Canada three of the last six years.

"Mayor Lehman never accepts the status quo and constantly challenges staff and the community to find new and better ways of working to improve our city," said Michael Prowse, CAO, City of Barrie. "I congratulate him on this very well-deserved acknowledgement and I look forward to continuing our work to build a healthy, vibrant community."

Mayor Lehman also advocated for the City to help fund the Peter B. Moore Advanced Technology Centre at Georgian College, where students can study and collaborate with faculty, industry and community partners to turn ideas into products and grow the regional economy.

"Mayor Lehman is an enthusiastic champion clearly focused on making central Ontario a place for start-ups to thrive and grow. His support for incubation hubs such as the Sandbox Centre, Creative Barrie and Georgian's new Peter B. Moore Advanced Technology Centre and Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre all contribute to building a growing innovation culture in our community," said MaryLynn West-Moynes, President and CEO of Georgian College.

Fast Company editors and writers spend a year researching candidates for the list, scouting every sector of business: technology, fashion, cybersecurity, biotech, entertainment, beauty, social good, food, data, consumer goods, and more. The people selected have all accomplished something truly innovative within the past 12 months or so that is having a meaningful effect within their industries. They're also discoveries -- none has ever been profiled in Fast Company before. Taken together, they represent where business is heading right now.

To see the complete list go to: [fastcompany.com/most-creative-people/2019](https://www.fastcompany.com/most-creative-people/2019) or join the Most Creative People conversation using #FCMostCreative.



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ABOUT FAST COMPANY

Fast Company is the only media brand fully dedicated to the vital intersection of business, innovation, and design, engaging the most influential leaders, companies and thinkers on the future of business. Since 2011, Fast Company has received some of the most prestigious editorial and design accolades, including the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME) National Magazine Award for "Magazine of the Year," Adweek's Hot List for "Hottest Business Publication," and six gold medals and 10 silver medals from the Society of Publication Designers. The editor-in-chief is Stephanie Mehta and the publisher is Amanda Smith. Headquartered in New York City, Fast Company is published by Mansueto Ventures LLC, along with our sister publication, Inc., and can be found online at fastcompany.com.

ABOUT CITY OF BARRIE

Barrie is an exciting, caring and progressive community that 148,000 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.

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