



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, September 26, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New trailhead sign honours former Barrie Mayor Willard Kinzie

(Barrie, ON) Barrie's first Mayor, the late Willard Kinzie was honoured today with the unveiling of a new trailhead sign. Mayor Jeff Lehman unveiled the sign at the north end of the marina boardwalk along the waterfront trail.

Mr. Kinzie passed away on November 25, 2018 at age 99. He served as Mayor of Barrie from 1957 to 1961. Barrie officially became a city in 1959 during his term in office. Mr. Kinzie would have turned 100 years old today.

The unveiling of the sign was followed by the inaugural 'Willard's Walk,' led by Mayor Jeff Lehman. Every year on September 26, the Mayor will lead residents on a walk around the waterfront in memory of Willard Kinzie. The walk will honour Willard's passion for the city and commitment to celebrating our heritage.

Mr. Kinzie brought the concept of a waterfront heritage trail to the City. An avid trail user, Mr. Kinzie envisioned a way for residents to learn about our history while enjoying an open air, self-guided interpretative experience on Barrie's waterfront.

The [Barrie Waterfront Heritage Trail](#) is a 6km outdoor trail around the waterfront which will have eleven themed interpretive stations that tell the history of the city. The trail will raise awareness of Barrie's historical heritage and foster a cultural enrichment for resident and visitors. Willard Kinzie's bronzed handprint, cast in 2016, waits at the end of the trail at Penetanguishene Road to offer a "high five" to those who complete the trail

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Scott LaMantia
Senior Communications Advisor
scott.lamantia@barrie.ca
705-739-4220 x4429