

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Barrie New Year's Eve Celebrations
Date	December 3, 2025
Ward	All
From	K. Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager of Community and Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

Since 1998, Barrie's New Year's Eve (NYE) Celebration has welcomed thousands from near and far to ring in the New Year together. This year, we're elevating the experience with a few thoughtful enhancements, including a new home at Meridian Place. With its stunning waterfront backdrop and ideal setting in the heart of our vibrant downtown, the venue offers even more opportunity to showcase the energy and spirit of our local businesses.

We've also adjusted the event time to better reflect Barrie's family-friendly character and make it easier for everyone to come together and kick off the New Year in style. Attendance over the past two years shows that our largest crowds gather for the early evening festivities, a clear sign that families appreciate having a welcoming place to start their celebrations. And for those who want to keep the excitement going - enjoy the Barrie NYE Celebration to start your night, then head to one of our lively downtown venues to toast the New Year with friends and neighbours.

Activities

- Inflatables
- Interactive games
- Face painting
- Button making
- Roaming and busker performances
- Bonfire warming zone
- Food trucks (\$)
- And much more!

Schedule

5:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Activities and vendors open

5:30 pm to 7:15 pm - Live music

7:50 pm to 8:55 pm - Headline Entertainment (to be finalized by Dec 5)

8:55 pm - Greetings from Dignitaries

9:00 pm - Fireworks finale from Heritage Park

Promotion

The event will be promoted through posters, Curbex mobile signs, digital screens, and the City's website and social media channels, as well as through media releases. We would greatly appreciate it if you are able to share the event with your audience as well—whether through social media, e-newsletters, or other communication channels.

Transit and Parking

Barrie Transit service will be free on New Year's Eve starting at 5 pm, and all routes will operate until 3 am. Extended schedules will be available at [MyRide.Barrie.ca](https://www.barrie.ca/MyRide).

[Downtown parking](#) is FREE after 5 pm and available within walking distance (including the Collier Street Parkade).

Road Closure

To accommodate the Barrie NYE Celebration, Simcoe Street (Bayfield to Dunlop/Mulcaster) will be closed on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, from 2 to 11 pm. Emergency services will have access to respond within the closure, but not to travel through. Local Traffic Only for access to Lakeshore Mews and Heritage Parking Lots.

Barrie NYE Celebration is supported by Alectra.

More details at barrie.ca/nye

Appendix:

Not Applicable

Memo Author:

A. Chappell, Supervisor of Special Events and Programming, Recreation and Culture Services Department.

File #:

Not Applicable

Pending #:

Not Applicable